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Art at the Ranch: Making Frescoes

Join us at an artist studio and horse ranch in Petaluma for a week of full immersion in the fresco painting process. Students will create their own wall fresco using a renaissance old technique of working with plaster, then transfer it to a 24” x 24” canvas you can take home. No prior painting experience necessary. The course may require working over the weekend of March 2nd/3rd depending on how long the process takes.

Leaders: Barry Beach and Roberto Varriale
Number of students - 9
Estimated cost - $515 (all art materials and tools included, and snacks provided)
Times - 9am-4pm each day (we will take a van from MA to Petaluma each day).
Students must bring their lunch & and water

BAAM!!! Bay Area Art Museums and Experiences

Join Anne Maurice and Katharine Boyd for a delightful mini course exploring some of the bay area’s best art museums and an art workshop. We will spend five days exploring art experiences throughout the SF bay area. Some of the highlights include:

*a trip to SFMOMA with a tour of the Modern Art Collection with a docent
* a trip to the legion of honor or the De Young museum with a behind the scenes visit with the head conservator of textiles and fashion.
*a glass blowing and glass fusing demonstration and workshop with The Crucible.
* a visit and workshop at the Cartoon Art museum.

No art experience required, just curiosity and genuine engagement in learning about how art is made. THIS IS NOT A PASSIVE MINICOURSE. You will be walking and standing most of the day in museums, engaging in dialogue with different people or participating in hands on workshops. This isn't a sit-down and just hang out minicourse. A genuine interest in art and art history is a plus! We walk and look at paintings, sculpture and photography etc, and some of the tours are guided. We will spend a couple of days making art.

Leaders: Katharine Boyd and Anne Maurice
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost: $500
( includes transportation cost, bridge tolls, lunch for two or three days, admission to all museums, and most lunches,snacks, workshop fees and supplies).
Bay Area Military History 2019

As all of you are aware I am sure, the Bay area is rich in history of many kinds. Whether it is military history, cultural history or political history, there is much to see and learn. This Mini Course is designed for the history buff or the would-be history buff who would like to seek out and explore this history in a manner that is often impractical in other circumstances. While many of us always say we will visit and learn about the historical sites and sounds of the area we never really find the time. Here’s your chance! We will spend the week doing a wide variety of history related activities with a particular emphasis on the rich military history of the area. Areas of interest will include; a tour of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet docked in Alameda, a tour of Alcatraz, Travis Air Base, the U.S.S. Pampanito (a W.W.II vintage submarine), the WW II Liberty ship, the USS O’Brien, and the historic site at Fort Ross state park up the coast. In addition, we will tour the historic military installations scattered in the Marin Headlands. We will be visiting a number of interactive museums that help bring much of this history alive. This will be an exciting, inspiring, educational and thoroughly enjoyable mini-course full of awesome sights and sounds for anyone who is a fan of history. Fair warning - the military history is the focus of the week with a number of tours of WWII era naval vessels.

This mini course is open to all grades but those students who have completed Modern World History (or are in the course) will have priority. The course runs from Sunday through Thursday.

Special note; Please do not sign up for this course if you are NOT available for the first outing which is on SUNDAY the 24th.

Leader: Tom Woodward
Number of students: 7
Estimated cost: $250

Bollywood: Dance, Film, Food and Beyond

Do you love to dance? Are you into musical theatre or romantic comedies? Would you like to be one of the 3.6 billion people in the world who will watch a Bollywood movie this year? If so, join us for an entertaining Minicourse experience exploring the sights, sounds, dances and tastes of India’s largest film industry. We will watch some of the most famous traditional and contemporary Bollywood films while eating chaat (snacks) and sweets, learn and collectively choreograph a Bollywood dance together, explore the making and symbolism of costuming and jewelry in Indian historical dramas, and tackle discussions about caste, race, gender, tradition, modernity, religious fundamentalism, and postcolonialism in the films we’re watching. Our course will involve a field trip to the Hindu temple in Livermore, a field trip to the gurdwara in El Sobrante, and a chance to see a current Bollywood movie in a theatre and share an Indian meal together afterwards.

Leader: Michelle Baird
Number of students: 7
Brazilian Capoeira

Brazilian Capoeira is a non-contact martial art developed in Brazil centuries ago by slaves as a way to prepare for rebellion while masking their training from the slave masters as "simple singing and dancing." Through this class, students will 1) practice basic capoeira technique; 2) learn the basics of instrumentation (percussion) and singing in Portuguese; and 3) watch films to study the development of capoeira, the history of slavery in Brazil, and how capoeira is used today as an escape from poverty.

As a break from physical activity, we have daily drum circles, so sign up if you like playing music!!! We will also be enjoying delicious Brazilian snacks, such as pão de queijo (cheesy bread) and brigadeiros (truffles).

No experience required. For students interested in continuing with capoeira, classes are available in San Rafael (www.abadamarin.org) at the Body Vibe Studio on Anderson Dr and in SF (abada.org) in the Mission.

Still not sure? Check out this video to see some of the cool stuff you can learn...

Leaders: Daniel Colon and Gerardo Molinari
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost: $400

BUILD AN ELECTRIC GUITAR, BASS, OR AMPLIFIER

The electrified guitar and bass changed the course of music in the middle of the last century. The process of electric amplification of the guitar—and later the organ, bass and piano—made it possible for a single musical instrument to be heard by a crowd of over 100,000 people. Over the course of the week, from a kit of parts, you will learn how to assemble and set up to play an electric guitar, electric bass, or vacuum tube amplifier—the choice is up to you. The guitar and bass bodies are unfinished bare wood, and you will learn how to stain or paint the body, solder the electronics, assemble and setup the instrument. If you pursue the vacuum tube amplifier you will learn how hand-wire and solder a full amplifier circuit to chassis and mount it to a speaker cabinet, as well as stain, paint or cover the cabinet. In addition to the hands-on work, students will learn a great deal about the scientific and engineering principles underlying the electric instruments that continue to drive much of today’s music, as well as the history of the how these instruments were invented and developed.

This will be a rewarding Minicourse in which you will learn much about music, culture, history, science and engineering in addition to learning and practicing mechanical, electrical and woodworking craft skills. You will also have a playable musical instrument at the end of the
week. No prerequisite experience is necessary, and we will work from 9am to 3:30pm each day with a break from 12-1 for lunch. This is an on-campus Minicourse.

Leader: Jon Bretan  
Number of students: 10  
Estimated cost: $450

**Crochet by the Bay (and knit too!)**

Have you ever wanted to learn to knit and crochet? Do you want to learn to make a hat, scarf, blanket, and basket? If so, this is the Minicourse for you! You will learn all the basic skills needed to knit and crochet some really awesome projects for yourself. We will spend our mornings at MA learning our new skills and then the afternoons by the water working on our projects (weather permitting). We will also visit Windrush Farm to play with the animals and learn how yarn is made from their sheep, alpacas, llamas, bunnies, and pygora goats' fleece. Morning and afternoon snacks will be provided, but you will need to bring your own lunch. You will get to keep all of your materials (knitting needles, crochet hooks, pompom maker, darning needles set, scissors, and yarn) and your final products. All materials are included and no previous experience is required.

Leader: Molly Tanner  
Number of students: 7  
Estimated cost: $250

**Deconstructing the Cyborgs: Design Competition**

Are humans cyborgs? Are cyborgs human?

The competition is waiting for you and only one team will win!

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Prerequisites: Can you turn on a computer? Have you sent a text message? Do you know what Snapchat is? Is Twitter a verb or a noun? Basically, there are no prerequisites aside from being a Marin Academy student. There are, however, requisite mindsets: insatiable curiosity, more interested in questions than answers, able to find comfort in discomfort, passion for trying new things, a love of play and exercising your imagination, openness to making a mess (literally and figuratively) and excitement to be part of this experience.

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Prologue: Centuries ago, before the cyborg transformation, members of the species known as humans were newly attached to electronic devices. A wide range of emotions and questions surfaced on a daily basis as these new tools became further and further integrated into human
Day by day the humans began to transform into cyborgs. A group of young humans, in the region formerly known as Marin County, wanted to understand these transformations. During a week in the spring of 1 BC (Beyond Cyborgs), the students were given a challenge:

How might we design an approach to leverage technology as a tool and not be leveraged by it?

The week went faster than the Fast & Furious movies (the only movies to obviously survive the coming of the cyborgs). In a highly collaborative and fast-paced environment, the young humans were exposed to the fundamental elements of design thinking, explored how humans interacted with technology, and visited designers at companies such as technology companies such as Facebook and Instagram. They expanded their identities as creative individuals, created prototypes to demonstrate how their idea might work, and competed to demonstrate the best design for a time Beyond Cyborgs.

A panel of judges awaits your proposal...

Bring yourself or form a team of four and join together. At the end of the week only one team will prevail in a world Beyond Cyborgs!

Leaders: Sachi DeCou & Aaron Fulk
Number of students: 20
Estimated cost: $200

Discovering Fungi: A new age of discovery- Harnessing the field of molecular biology and genomics to advance our understanding of the world!

We are on the forefront of scientific discovery. Over the past 3 years, Marin Academy students have described, identified, isolated and sequenced DNA from fungi all over the Bay Area. New species descriptions for fungi typically require both DNA sequence and morphological descriptions. Moreover, the species type should be preserved in a public herbarium (MA is building one) in order for the sample material to be available to interested scientists. A goal for this year’s minicourse is to be able to collect a full suite of data in order to write a convincing argument for the proposal of a new species that is acceptable to editors, reviewers, and the scientific community. Do you want to be a part of this cutting-edge research which combines fieldwork, molecular laboratory work, and bioinformatics?

Join us as we get outside to hike, hunt and analyze fungi for the week. Adventures out in the woods will be local, and more far-reaching to the coast. *We will start our week with a local mushroom hunting hike. We will also go on one or two road trips within a few hours of San
Rafael to “chase” the best fungi, hike and explore our local ecosystems! We’ll cook mushrooms together outside too! During our hikes in the forests and along the coast, we will learn to look for mushrooms. We will spend time staring at duff, leaf litter, dead trees, and plant matter. You will never look at a forest floor the same way again. We will use iNaturalist to document our observations and share with the broader Bay Area mycological community.

In the lab, we will identify the fungi using macro, micro, and molecular biology techniques. We will look at the fungi we find under the microscopes and make spore prints. We will use the molecular biology techniques of Barcoding and Gel electrophoresis to sequence the DNA and identify them. These observations can expand our logs on iNaturalist.

During the week students will work with different local artists. We will spend time working on scientific illustrations of our fungi in the classroom. Students will also use wool fibers to create fungi models.

This minicourse is ideal for the individual who wants to get outside, discover new things and learn new skills in and out of the lab!

*After a generous period of rainfall, many fungi make their presence known by sending up mushrooms! Lots and lots of mushrooms (Mushrooms are the reproductive structures "fruiting bodies" of certain fungal organisms.) We would like to pursue the option of having a pre-minicourse field trip IF it rains in January or early February. If we get a nice rainfall, we would like to collect fungi nearby and preserve them for our minicourse week. If the group can make this happen, we will meet 4 days during minicourse vs. 5 days.

Leaders: Liz Gottlieb and Mary Kay Dolesji
Number of students: 10
Estimated cost: $ 275

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**Do It Yourself! An Exploration of Crafting!**

Get in touch with your inner maker and designer!! Have you been interested in learning more about the “Do it yourself” movement? Ever wanted to try woodworking or metalsmithing? Are you interested in learning about the natural dye that created the beautiful blue hue of your favorite jeans? If any of these concepts sound interesting to you, then sign up for “Do it Yourself! An Exploration of Crafting!”. We’ll spend each of the five days of minicourse week working on a different project and learning about the history behind the craft. These projects include indigo dyeing, beginning woodworking, and metal jewelry design. No experience necessary - just a desire and curiosity to learn!

Leaders: Candace Chen and Abby French
Number of students: 10
Estimated cost: $450

**Eat, Play, Create**

This mini course explores multi-disciplinary art making and community building, through shared exercises in visual art/collage, theater games, movement, writing, and cooking and eating together, both on the MA campus and in nature. Each day we will explore 1-2 forms of art and group activities (such as a morning at the beach exploring space as an artistic concept, and an afternoon spent making collage art; a morning playing theater games, an afternoon cooking and eating together). Each day will culminate in an informal presentation and discussion of the students’ creations.

Leaders: Randee Paufve, Jennie Oppenheimer, David Sinaiko
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost: $265

**Foodies Take the Bay**

Are you passionate about trying new types of food, cooking, eating locally, and serving our local community? If you are, then join us for a week-long foodie adventure as we travel throughout the Bay Area eating and learning about what it takes to make delicious food and run a successful business. Some of the topics we’ll explore include:
- The role community plays in starting a small business
- The challenges and rewards of running a food business
- How to make delicious food of varying cuisines
- Different types of food business models

Along the way we’ll have the opportunity to ask lots of questions of people who have made food a central part of their lives, like restaurateurs, farmers, and small business owners. We’ll also have lots of hands-on experiences; we’ll have an opportunity to prepare meals, work with food in a garden/farm setting, and taste lots of yummy treats (of course)! So, if you are up for nurturing your creative side, honing your culinary skills, being an adventurous eater, and have a genuine appetite for all things food, this is the mini-course for you! Be ready to walk, talk, and take charge of your own learning. We have tasty and exciting adventures ahead! Also worth noting is that we expect every student in this course to be an engaged, polite, respectful, and active participant, who will represent our school well when interacting with those in the broader Bay Area. This mini-course is best suited for people who like to try different kinds of foods.

Leaders: Shawn Cole and Natalie Naranjo
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost: $300

Get Crafty

Find your inner crafter while we do projects including making paper flowers http://www.papelsf.com/, denim embroidery https://www.instagram.com/miniaturerhino/?hl=en, cross stitch https://sarahkbenning.com/ and paper marbling https://www.marthastewart.com/920467/how-marbleize-paper-and-cards?slide=3391663. Check out all of the links above to learn more. This course will take place here on campus and will be taught by guest artists. Supplies provided. No experience necessary. Sign up and get ready to get your craft on!

Leaders: Sanjai Moses and Alex Brown
Number of students: 12 students
Estimated cost: $375

History and Mysteries: Discovering our past to build our futures

This minicourse is designed for students who enjoy innovating and creating projects from scratch. We will gather data, sort, and create photographic images, do voice over, interview, and create amazing stories! This year the focus is to build, through the use of modern technology, the foundation of our campus audio-virtual tour.

We will select and work with various audio-visual software. We’ll search and choose the best option to accomplish our task. We will spend a day exploring UC Berkeley campus to learn about and experience their audio tour design. If weather permits, we will also do some of the audio-walking tours offered in the Bay Area.

This minicourse is for people who want to contribute and be part of the MA legacy.

Leaders: Rebecca Abbey & Anayansi Aranda-Yee
Number of students: 8
Estimated cost: $85
International Vacation (Destination)

Do you know what the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Great Wall of China and the Bay Area have in common? They are international vacation destinations; people save their hard-earned money and vacation days, travel thousands of miles with multiple connecting flights, and search for that perfect hotel or air bnb just for the opportunity to drive over the Golden Gate Bridge, hike the Marin Headlands, wander through Lands End and Golden Gate Park, and explore the activist history of the East Bay. That’s right. And you live right here. While you reside here in this vacation paradise, have you seen even a small percentage of what it has to offer? Have you hiked the hills of West Marin and taken in the glorious view of the water below? Have you created your own masterpieces in one of the many museums throughout the Bay area that offers classes? How about sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge on a Hobie Cat? Or kayaking beyond Sausalito’s shores? If you’re interested in discovering the awe-inspiring beauty and activities that the Bay Area offers, sign up for this one.

This mini-course will be comprised of five day-long adventures all over the Bay Area. It will be low-stress (though we may raise your heartbeat on occasion), offer new perspectives, provide a few good meals, and promises to be a pretty darn good time.

Leaders: J O’Malley & Marisa Gomez
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost $300

Desert Sunsets and Open Skies

Often we may boast the superiority of NorCal to SoCal, but how often have any of us gotten a chance to spend in a stunning desert? California may be known for grand granite giants, but a different kind of beauty lurks in the southern end. Joshua Tree National Park is home to two desert systems. The Mojave and Colorado deserts come together, creating an ever contrasting desert ecosystem. We will start by driving down and car camping. The desert adventure will commence with two days of top rope climbing at Indian Cove on some beautiful red and yellow rocks. Top rope climbing means setting up ropes at the top of a rock wall, tying in to the ropes and then climbing up while attached. After, we will drive to the Boy Scout Trailhead and take the Boy Scout Trail to Willow Hole. After hiking out approximately 8 miles, we will spend a night out in the backcountry of the wide open desert. After one night we will hike back, camp and head home the next day. During this Mini course, we will have sufficient time to get to know each other, learn to work as a team and build on our individual strengths. Come sleep underneath the
ever expanding desert sky. Let us play on a variety of rock formations and watch as the sunsets breathe life into the yellow sands.

Leaders: Avalon Qian and TBD
Number of students: 7
Estimated cost: $550
Dates: Saturday February 23rd to Thursday February 28th

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**Living on the Land 2019**

Join us for a week of slowing down in nature at Green Valley Farm + Mill. The 170+ acre property outside of Sebastopol is home to a working organic veggie farm and CSA, dairy herdshare, and a community of people living on the land who are committed to ecological stewardship, community, and vibrant, regenerative farm enterprises. We'll spend the week exploring what it means to live in connection with the rhythms of nature, grow food, and steward a piece of earth that thrives with a diversity of life. We'll work together on the farm, learn about sustainable practices, cook up delicious meals with farm-fresh produce, harvest medicinal herbs from the forest to make herbal medicines, and possibly visit a few nearby exemplary sustainability projects to inspire us with possibilities. Honing our skills of stewardship, naturalizing, and crafting, we'll wander, discover, play, and connect, restoring ourselves and our relationship with the earth.

Leaders: Tania Bettis, Rachel Kernodle, and Lindsay Dailey (MA ’98), with other guest instructors
Number of students: 12
Estimated cost: $550
Dates: Sunday, February 24th - Thursday, February 28th

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**Mountain Cinematography**

This minicourse consists of using cinematography and film editing skills to make a video compilation of a daily life in Montana including educational facts about the area. This week will include a lot of advanced skiing/ snowboarding, along with some research of the area and video editing. The minicourse is located in Big Sky, Montana. The mincourse will focus on group learning and work surrounding the creation of the video and related activities. Because this
course’s project is a video, the students must be currently in or have taken a photo class. All applicants must be Advanced at skiing and be able to keep up a fast pace on the most advanced runs. They also must have all the equipment necessary to ski/snowboard. Due to the housing arrangements, we can only take those who self-identify as male.

Leaders: George McGlashan (student leader), Jack Longley (student leader), Tucker Grooms (student leaders) and Lisa LaHorgue (adult leader)
Number of students: 5
Estimated cost: $550
Dates of course: TBA

**Movement & Mobility**

We will spend the week moving and learning, taking inspiration from the work of Joseph Pilates, Jill Miller, Kelly Starrett, Wim Hof, Laird Hamilton and others. From daily workouts to breathing exercises to pilates and focused technique work, you will learn how to move better, breathe more deeply, treat minor muscle aches and pains, and recover more quickly. While this minicourse is not designated for athletes only, you will need to bring a love of movement, exercise, and self-discovery. You’ll come away from this minicourse with your own toolbox, filled with some basic equipment to keep you and your body happy and healthy throughout the school year. You’ll also learn a bit more about how you move in the world and what you can do to be a more efficient, healthy and mobile human being.

Leaders: Mary Collie (w Becca Wadman & visit from Jamie Collie)
Number of Students: 14
Estimated cost: $140

**Multi-track Recording**

Professional musician and M.A. alumnus Jim Reitzel invites students to learn the modern science and art of recording in a San Rafael studio. Students will operate Jim’s 24-track and learn about all the out-board gear—reverbs, delays, compressors, etc.—as well as gain knowledge on mic techniques, overdub strategies, mix-down procedures and more. What’s to learn besides the technical skills and the gear? First, you’ll find that working with others on a demanding schedule in tight quarters requires humility, cooperation and teamwork. And because students act as producers, engineers, arrangers, musicians and go-fers, there is a tremendous amount to learn and do. But there are also, by necessity, moments when nothing can happen—because something else must happen first. Patience and self-discipline are therefore important additional qualities to possess and refine during the week. The course will meet for the five days of minicourse from 9 AM to at least 3 PM. Later in the week sessions may be extended to meet the goals of the group. The final product will be a tape of the songs you record, which you will take home as a souvenir of this amazing week. Singers, players, and
those who are strictly interested in the technical aspect of recording are welcome. Students will need to arrange their own transportation to the studio.

Leader: Jim Reitzel
Number of students: 10
Estimated cost: $350

**Plan to Improvise**

Creating a meaningful musical response to what you hear when jamming.

You’ve heard it a million times: “music is a language.” In this minicourse we will develop our musical vocabulary, phrasing, and conversation skills as we engage in critical listening and technical analysis of legendary improvised jams, and apply the concepts we uncover to our own improvisations. The music and jamming styles of Phish and the Grateful Dead will be our primary focus, but we will also include more harmonically complex jazz improvisations in our discussions. We will break into several small ensembles to run group improvisation exercises, learn challenging through-composed passages that lead to open jams, learn how to spontaneously modulate to closely related keys, and compose original songs that incorporate our new jamming skills. Some of our best work will be recorded. We will also bring in a few local professional musicians to demonstrate and discuss their approach to improvising.

This minicourse is intended for non-beginner musicians, who feel that they already have a basic understanding of how to improvise on their instrument. We will use the MA music department facilities. Lunch will be provided each day so that we can eat together and listen to music.

Leader: Chris Detrick & Jared Baird
Number of students: 12
Estimated cost: $150

**Restore, Refresh, Rejuvenate!**

This is an opportunity to take a break from all of the stressful demands of your busy schedule and focus on wellness. This week we will take a moment to pause and attend to our physical and mental well-being. Our school is in one of the most beautiful areas of the country - people come from far and wide to visit this spectacular place and all it has to offer, especially in terms of food and nature. We’ll take advantage of the bounty of Marin with a restorative week to
refresh and rejuvenate. The week will be filled with a variety of relaxing activities, possibly including light hiking, taking the ferry to San Francisco to taste good food, kayaking, exploring beaches, glass art, farming, meditation, service work, or yoga. Our days will have a delightful balance of physical activity and time for introspection. We will meet Monday through Friday from 8:30-3 and have adventures within an hour driving distance. We hope you will be feeling inspired and rejuvenated by Friday afternoon!

Leaders: Betsy Muir & Randi Bakken
Number of students: 14
Estimated cost: $325

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_Takin’ it to the Streets! - Creating and Viewing Photography in the Bay Area_

If you love photography or are just deeply curious about it, this mini-course is for you. During this week we will travel to various locations throughout the bay, creating photographs and viewing lots of great photo exhibitions. All students, grades 10-12, will be welcome to join, and previous knowledge of photographic processes is not necessary, but a love of taking pictures is! You do not need your own camera but are encouraged to bring one if you have your own.

The course will center around the practice of “street photography,” a genre within the medium that artists have participated in for well over 100 years. While “street photography” means a lot of different things to many different people, our work will come out of putting ourselves in different public spaces, and working to visual response to these spaces with our cameras. You will learn various tactics of working on the street, including how to observe others without being seen. We will start off our week by looking at a variety of works by different street photographers, a visit from a prominent San Francisco Street Photographer, pizza, and training on our digital SLR cameras. The last day of the course will be reserved for pulling together the images we have created, in order to work and print those images to create a final portfolio showcasing the work you have made during the week.

We will visit a variety of locations to view photography on display, including museums, galleries, and even a photographer’s studio. To name a few: Pier 24, SFMOMA, Minnesota Street Projects, SF Camerawork.

Leader: Josh Smith
Number of students: 7
Estimated cost: $200
Dates of course: 2/26 (Tuesday) - 3/2/18 (Saturday)
This is Why I Love the Movies: Great Filmmakers on Film

WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO THE CINEMA? WHAT TAKES THEM INTO A DARKENED ROOM WHERE, FOR TWO HOURS, THEY WATCH THE PLAY OF SHADOWS ON A SHEET? THE SEARCH FOR ENTERTAINMENT? THE NEED FOR A KIND OF DRUG? ALL OVER THE WORLD THERE ARE, INDEED, ENTERTAINMENT FIRMS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH EXPLOIT CINEMA AND TELEVISION AND SPECTACLES OF MANY OTHER KINDS. OUR STARTING POINT, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE THERE, BUT IN THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF CINEMA, WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE HUMAN NEED TO MASTER AND KNOW THE WORLD. I THINK THAT WHAT A PERSON NORMALLY GOES TO THE CINEMA FOR IS TIME: FOR TIME LOST OR SPENT OR NOT YET HAD. HE GOES THERE FOR LIVING EXPERIENCE; FOR CINEMA, LIKE NO OTHER ART, WIDENS, ENHANCES AND CONCENTRATES A PERSON'S EXPERIENCE—AND NOT ONLY ENHANCES IT BUT MAKES IT LONGER, SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER. THAT IS THE POWER OF CINEMA: ‘STARS’, STORY-LINES AND ENTERTAINMENT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

• Director Andrei Tarkovsky

Do you love movies of all genres and periods? Are you fascinated by visual storytelling? Are you a practicing or aspiring student of film in a more than casual way? Do you want the opportunity to talk people from the film industry in an intimate and informal environment? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then this minicourse will provide you an opportunity to watch a plethora of incredible movies hand-picked and presented by people who have spent their professional lives working in -- or at the very least connected to -- the film industry.

What films will we watch exactly? Well, it depends on what our guest programmers choose - and it depends a bit upon the composition and interests of our group, but you can be assured that you will be surprised by the variety -- running the gamut of genres from drama, to comedy, to science fiction and, best of all, the unclassifiable. We will see very old and very new films. We will see films in black and white and glorious technicolor. We will see silent films and sound films, films made with lavish budgets and films produced on a shoestring. We will see actors we know in surprising roles and places and marvel at the performances of actors you have never seen in anything before.

Three things are guaranteed:

• You will have the opportunity to speak with film professionals in an intimate setting and a small group, which is both exceedingly rare -- and not to be missed if you consider yourself a lover of film or have interest in learning more about all aspects of film.
• Every film will offer something exceptional -- striking visual technique, unusual sound design or score, unforgettable performances -- and will challenge you to see, hear, and feel in new ways as we watch and discuss.

• None of the films we see would be found on a screen at a multiplex in a mall. You may not love every film, but there will be much to appreciate in all that we watch, and hopefully you will understand more of what Andrei Tarkovsky means above about the power of cinema to help us understand the world.

Logistics: this course will run from Monday to Friday during normal school hours, though we may stay until 4 PM on some days depending on programming. We will do our viewings in the MA Theater so as to take advantage of our new projector and screen. Be prepared to do some contextual reading and to engage in extended discussions.

Note: for those who did the course last year: we will screen different films this year if you want to repeat.

Leader: Bill Meyer
Number of students: 10
Approximate cost: $200

Wilderness Quest Minicourse '19

Wilderness Quest Essays: Essay Questions can be found outside Julie’s office (Outings Office, Thacher)
Return electronic essays to Julie Barnes at jbarnes@ma.org no later than Mon, Nov 26, 2018, 9:00 am
**NO LATE essays will be accepted!!

The Wilderness Quest is a rare opportunity to press pause on the rhythm of one’s life and reconnect with self, nature, and community. Engaging with Earth, Water, Fire, Air and the plants and animals who dwell in the wild world, participants will be supported in reflection and reconnection. This seven-day trip into the wilderness ranges from camping with a group of friends to a three-day solo and back to the group, providing a journey of deepening relationships, inside and out. The opportunity being offered is time and space to celebrate transition, marking the shift from one way of being to another, one stage of life to another, or anything else one is looking to acknowledge or gain guidance for from the natural world. Whether intentions are clear now or not, the calling to this will be.

Living in a unique time calls for living unique lives and the wilderness quest is a space to attune to one’s unique gifts. Fear and loneliness may balance awe and contentment, with each individual having their own experience. The solo is designed for just that - to help us each find our edge and remember what it feels like to be fully alive. Moving from the known to the unknown isn’t easy, but therein lies its power. When questers leave basecamp, they enter the threshold of wilderness - in the ecosystem and in their own body-heart-mind. The return is a
celebration of our lives, our experiences, and our stories, giving space to find meaning in the experiences that emerged.

This mini-course begins five weeks before departure with one day long and two two-hour meetings. These meetings are MANDATORY. These pre-trip meetings will give us a sense of who, what, where, when, why, and how we’ll make this journey. Discussing gear, group dynamics, safety, minimum-impact camping, individual intentions, and providing context for modern-day rites of passage will help students feel comfortable and confident heading into the wilderness.

Meeting Times: You must make these meetings; check your calendars for conflicts before signing up

Wednesday, February 6th    12:30-5:30 Day Long Preparatory Outing
Tuesday, February 12th    6:30-8:30 Prep meeting BBLC 211
Tuesday, February 19th    6:30-8:30 Prep meeting BBLC 211
Monday, Feb 25             8:00 am    Meet at the Circle, Leave
Sunday, March 3rd    Return Home    Arrive at MA sometime late evening
DATE TBA        Reunion Dinner and Final Check-in Meeting

Due to the physical, emotional, and psychological demands of the program, students are selected for this program based on an application with an essay and the ways that they have exhibited their ability to be a responsible member of the MA community. Interested students should use careful and honest discernment about whether this is a good time for them to quest. Applications are due at to Julie electronically on November 26th, and can be found on the outings office door.

Special Note: this mini-course necessitates a vacation from your technology for several days. There is no reception in the desert area where we will be.

Leaders: Spencer Nielsen and Taylor Tan
Number of students: 12 - Juniors and Seniors only.
Estimated cost: $550
Dates: Leave MA Monday, Feb 25th    Return to MA Sunday, Mar 3rd

Womxn + Wilderness 2019

What does wilderness mean, and to whom does wilderness belong? How do people engage in “wilderness” in ways that feel inclusive, equitable, and responsible? Where do our identities and "wilderness" fit together? Join a community of womxn in the outdoors to hike into slot canyons and ancient waterfall pathways in the desert climate of the American southwest. We will learn about communities that have been disenfranchised from our public lands – their historical
connection or exclusion from them, as well as current battles for land rights – and confront the
issues of being womxn in today’s political climate. Through our exploration of landscape
described by many as “feminine,” we will explore what femininity means to each of us and how
that may influence our connection with the outdoors.

We will leave Tuesday afternoon (2/26) by plane from SFO to Las Vegas and return to SFO on
Saturday evening (3/2). From Las Vegas, we will drive into the public lands of the American
southwest to start our exploration. Our days will revolve around built-in solo contemplative time
as well as group discussion and activities. We will be sleeping on the ground, in a tent, for the
week. We will take long day hikes (or perhaps 1-2 nights of backpacking, based on group
appetite and availability of permits). While you do not need prior camping experience to come
on this minicourse, you do need an adventurous spirit, the health and wellness needed to
partake in strenuous and lengthy outdoor activity, and the toughness necessary for camping in a
winter desert climate. Daily highs could be the low 50s or 60s, and nights can dip below freezing
into the mid-20s.

This trip is led by three white, cis, queer womxn. On this trip, we will focus on and honor our
intersectional identities. We prioritize intersectional identity politics and therefore welcome
diversity across multiple identity markers, within the affinity space we are creating for womxn.
Any person who identifies as a womxn, trans, and/or femme is welcome on this minicourse.

Leaders: Juliet Dana, Olivia Bronson and Zoe Unruh
Number of students: 12
Estimated cost: $475
Dates: Tuesday 2/26-Saturday 3/2

YOGA MARATHON (and more) … DETOX, DESTRESS, DECOMPRESS

Looking for a restorative week? Willing to challenge yourself? Join the ONE Minicourse
guaranteed to make you sweat!
Participants will learn and practice BIKRAM YOGA and POWER YOGA (and possibly
PILATES). Bikram yoga is an intensive yoga practice (90 minutes/class), which relies on high
temperatures to both increase flexibility and focus, and cleanse your body and mind. Power
yoga (60 minutes/class) is practiced at lower room temperatures and aims to increase spinal
flexibility and overall strength. To enhance our weeklong focus of centering our body and mind,
participants should expect to begin (or end) some days with a hike. This course is appropriate
for beginning to advanced students of yoga and requires students to commit to a physical
challenge. All sessions are taught off-campus by certified instructors at the Red Dragon studio
in San Rafael and Mill Valley and at a gym in Corte Madera (for Pilates).
Leaders: Aïda Schäfer and Laurie Clark
Number of students: 16
Estimated cost: $170 (includes all classes, and snacks)
Students are required to attend every yoga class and daily activities. Students provide own yoga mats, towels, and daily lunch