Session I:
Saturday, October 20, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

High Anxiety: The Culture, The Campus & Important Nonsense
Bolton Hall, Room 280
Bob Boyers, Editor, SALMAGUNDI Magazine; Professor of English
Every culture has its buzzwords and cliches, its newly minted ideas that arouse excitement and soon turn out to be not so very attractive. Often the most arousing ideas are generated on or around college and university campuses, where professors and students are hungry for anything that seems provocative and controversial, though they embrace those ideas only if there is little danger of disagreement within their own cohort. The term “herd of independent minds”—invented by New Yorker critic Harold Rosenberg more than fifty years ago—perfectly describes most of those (though by no means all of those) who spend their time in a campus environment. This Minicolege class will examine the most recent eruptions of high voltage buzzwords, with a special emphasis on one of the most nonsensical of these “ideas,” which goes by the name of “appropriation.” What’s it all about? Why do academics and students become aroused whenever they find an opportunity to invoke that term and others (privilege, safe spaces) like it? Discussion and debate welcome.

The Robot Apocalypse
Palamountain Hall, Room 201
Christine Kopec, Visiting Assistant Professor, Management & Business
Will we recognize the world of work in the coming decades as it fills with robot workers and artificial intelligence tools? What challenges face our children/students as many full-time jobs are rapidly filled by machines and human workers face the growing tide of the gig, part-time economy?

North Korean Conflict in the Trump Era
Bolton Hall, Room 281
Joowon Park, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
New and old conflicts have emerged between the US and North Korea during the Trump Presidency. The “fire and fury” of Trump, missile threats from “Rocket Man,” and possible nuclear war have all headlined the news as military tensions have escalated in East Asia. This presentation will discuss how we got to this point of conflict and hostility by exploring the division of the Korean Peninsula, Cold War power struggles, North Korean Ideology, and North Korea’s nuclearization efforts over the last few decades. How do we move forward from here and what are some possible solutions?

The Political Landscape of 2018 Elections
Palamountain Hall, Room 202
Chris Mann, Assistant Professor, Political Science
Forecasting an election more than twelve months in advance is foolhardy, but identifying the factors most likely to influence the 2018 general elections is possible. This MiniCollege session will look at the features of the environment likely to influence upcoming 2018 general elections for Congress and in many state governments. Beyond the day-to-day coverage of politics by the news media and the quirks of individual candidates, a range
of long-term patterns in turnout, public opinion, economic cycle, and demographic change will influence the outcome of elections for US Senate, Congress, Governor, and state legislatures. 

**Also offered at 2 p.m.**

**Cryptocurrency and Blockchain**  
**Palamountain Hall, Room 301**  
David Read, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science  
Terms such as cryptocurrency, blockchain, initial coin offering, Bitcoin, smart contract, mining, and decentralized application have become well-known fodder in mainstream technical and business publications. Tied to these concepts fortunes have been made and lost in real and virtual worlds. The hype and misinformation surrounding these topics is high while the interest and investment is real. For example, as of 2018, about 1% of the world’s energy consumption is used to manage cryptocurrencies and their record-keeping blockchains. In this class we’ll introduce the concepts of blockchain and cryptocurrency. We’ll also delve into smart contracts which seek to automate the legalese of common business agreements on a blockchain.

**The Platinum Rule: Communicating Across Difference in a Changing World**  
**Bolton Hall, Room 282**  
Cathy Silber, Teaching Professor, Department of World Languages and Literatures  
The Golden Rule says "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but you might actually do more harm than good by following this maxim to interact with people whose values and beliefs, priorities and proprieties differ from your own—especially the norms and expectations that govern interaction with others. Using the case of Chinese-American intercultural communication, this class shows the differing communication values that create misunderstanding and engender stereotypes and proffers an upgrade to the Golden Rule: do unto to others as they would have done unto themselves. **Also offered at 2 p.m.**

**Paper Tiger: Industrial Lobbyists in 20th century America**  
**Bolton Hall, Room 100**  
Jennifer Delton, Professor of History  
Americans have long been concerned about the influence of industry and capitalism on American democracy, especially as exerted by pressure groups and lobbyists. But were lobbyists as effective and monstrous as liberals and historians have portrayed them? An examination of one of the most powerful industry groups in the twentieth century, the National Association of Manufacturers, suggests not. Hampered by divisions, ideological narrowness, and bureaucratic inertia, the NAM was not as effective as imagined.

**Three Trillion and Counting: What mapping the Earth’s trees taught us about science and the popular imagination**  
**Bolton Hall, Room 103**  
Kristopher Covey, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences  
In 2015 our research team developed a map of global tree density. With it came the first robust estimate of the number of trees on earth, more than 3 trillion. We’ll discuss the technical process behind this multi-year international collaboration, our findings, and the conversation that ensued in the popular media. What can this project tell us about the Earth system, the pursuit of science, and the way we as a society interact with scientific knowledge? And, what’s left to count…?

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**Session II:**  
**Saturday, October 20, 2 – 3 p.m.**

**Fatal Attraction: The Politics of Mortal Terror**  
**Palamountain Hall, Davis Auditorium**  
Sheldon Solomon, Professor of Psychology  
Professor Solomon will present research demonstrating how non-conscious death anxiety influences political preferences and has likely influenced the outcome of several recent presidential elections.
The Political Landscape of 2018 Elections  
Palamountain Hall, Emerson Auditorium  
Chris Mann, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
Forecasting an election more than twelve months in advance is foolhardy, but identifying the factors most likely to influence the 2018 general elections is possible. This MiniCollege session will look at the features of the environment likely to influence upcoming 2018 general elections for Congress and in many state governments. Beyond the day-to-day coverage of politics by the news media and the quirks of individual candidates, a range of long-term patterns in turnout, public opinion, economic cycle, and demographic change will influence the outcome of elections for US Senate, Congress, Governor, and state legislatures.  
Also offered at 9:30 a.m.

Introduction to Indian Classical Music & Sitar Tabla Performance  
Zankel Music Center, Room 214  
Veena Chandra, Private Music Instructor, Music  
Professor Chandra will offer an introduction to Northern Indian Classical Music instruments with special reference to the Sitar and Rag-Tal system. Participants will learn some composition as well as Tal-Rhythms and the essentials of Rag –Terminology: vadi, samvadi, jati, Thaat, Aroh, avroh, pakad- with alap, bandish and taans.

The Pretender of Pitcairn Island: Joshua W. Hill, the Man Who Would Be King Among the Bounty Mutineers  
Bolton Hall, Room 280  
Tillman Nechtman, Professor of History  
Pitcairn, a tiny Pacific island that was refuge to the mutineers of HMAV Bounty and home to their descendants, later became the stage on which one imposter played out his influential vision for British control over the nineteenth-century Pacific Ocean. Joshua W. Hill arrived on Pitcairn in 1832 and began his fraudulent half-decade rule that has until now been swept aside as an idiosyncratic moment in the larger saga of Fletcher Christian's mutiny against Captain Bligh, and the mutineers' unlikely settlement of Pitcairn.

The Platinum Rule: Communicating Across Difference in a Changing World  
Bolton Hall, Room 282  
Cathy Silber, Teaching Professor, Department of World Languages and Literatures  
The Golden Rule says "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but you might actually do more harm than good by following this maxim to interact with people whose values and beliefs, priorities and proprieties differ from your own—especially the norms and expectations that govern interaction with others. Using the case of Chinese-American intercultural communication, this class shows the differing communication values that create misunderstanding and engender stereotypes and proffers an upgrade to the Golden Rule: do unto to others as they would have done unto themselves. Also offered at 9:30 a.m.

Understanding and addressing barriers to treatment for anxiety  
Bolton Hall, Room 281  
Casey Schofield, Associate Professor of Psychology  
People are often surprised to learn that approximately 1 in 4 people will experience an anxiety disorder at some point in their life. Although these conditions are debilitating, upwards of 50% of people with an anxiety disorder will not receive any treatment during their lifetime. Furthermore, the treatment protocols that people do receive are often not aligned with evidence-based guidelines. In short, although clinical science has spent the past 30 years developing and refining effective psychotherapies, the overwhelming majority of people experiencing anxiety disorders will not access these treatments during their lifetime. This talk will interrogate this public health problem, and highlight research happening at Skidmore designed to address this concern.

Beatlemore Skidmania – A Preview  
Zankel Music Center, Room 117, ELM  
Joel Brown, Distinguished Artist in Residence, Department of Music  
For nearly two decades, the Skidmore Music Department has presented Beatlemore Skidmania; A dedication to the Beatles and their music through an annual celebration brought to life by our very own Skidmore
students. The event consists of three typically sold-out shows which engage in creative freedom for the students to explore, embody and process the music of the Beatles. By way of this, the concerts are built on innovative and refreshing renditions of the Beatles classics, showcasing original thought and composition which revive our pre-existing Beatles vocabulary. This Celebration Weekend mini lecture and performance will chronicle the history of Beatlemore, discuss this year's selected album - *The White Album* of 1968 - and feature much of the musical talent Skidmore's student body has to offer.