Session I:
Saturday, October 19, 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

The Campus Wars: Privilege, Identity & Safe Spaces
Bolton Hall, Room 280
Bob Boyers, Editor, SALMAGUNDI Magazine; Professor of English
Every culture has its buzzwords and cliches. Often these are adopted with little reflection, and with every expectation that they will be embraced with no prospect of dissent or disharmony. But at present this is by no means what has happened. On campuses all across the country students and faculty are now contending with the poisonous atmosphere generated by the circulation of ideas that are routinely misrepresented and misunderstood. This minicourse class will examine recent eruptions on a variety of campuses, from Yale to Harvard, from Middlebury and the University of Chicago to Skidmore. What is it all about? How will the campus wars affect the experience of students enrolled in institutions of higher learning? Discussion and debate are welcome.

Religion v. Law v. Culture
Palamountain Hall, Room 202
Christine Kopec, Senior Teaching Professor, Management & Business
Is a Christmas Tree a “religious symbol”? Does the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance violate the First Amendment to the Constitution? AND: What does that First Amendment tell us about religion and its place in our society?

The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: The United States and China through History and in the Media
Bolton Hall, Room 281
Mao Chen, Professor of World Languages and Literatures and The Courtney and Steven Ross Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies
This presentation involves a discussion of U.S.-China relations in modern history through many visual images. The lecture begins with “the Old China Trade” in late 1700’s and then focuses on several pivotal moments in the history of relations between both countries.

The Summer Olympic Games: A Prelude to Tokyo 2020
Bolton Hall, Room 282
Jeff Segrave, Music Department Chair and David H. Porter Professor
In September 2013, Tokyo was elected by the International Olympic Committee as the host city for the 2020 summer Olympic Games. At the same time that both the Tokyo Organizing Committee and the IOC hope that the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will serve as a model for future games, Japan is planning serious changes for the future of the Olympic games and for the future of the country. With the Games less than a year away, we will take a brief look at the history of the Games and anticipate the issues and challenges that Tokyo 2020 faces.
Is that you? How the Brain Recognizes Faces
Bolton Hall, Room 103
Chris Vecsey, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience
Most people take it for granted that they are instantly able to recognize faces in the crowd. But this depends on incredibly complicated processes occurring in your eyes and brain. In this presentation, we will examine recent research on how patterns of light and dark are analyzed by the brain to create a unified perception of a face.

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 years selected album - The White Album of 1968 - and feature much of the musical talent Skidmores student body has to offer.

The Brain on Stress
Bolton Hall, Room 100
Elliott Jardin, Visiting Assistant Professor, Psychology
In this lecture Dr. Jardin will provide you with a biological and phylogenetic perspective of stress. From this understanding, we will discuss both adaptive and maladaptive ways that stress influences our lives. The lecture will wrap up with discussion of actionable ways to reduce stress.

Hot Rocks
Palamountain Hall, Room 201
Jennifer Cholnoky, Visiting Instructor, Geoscience
Every rock tells a story. Much of what we know about the Earth and its 4.6 billion year history is found in the geologic record. What stories can igneous rocks tell? How can we use our observational skills to identify igneous rocks? (And is that granite countertop really made of granite?)

Session II: Saturday, October 19, 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.

Honeypots and Machine Learning
Bolton Hall, Room 280
David Read, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science
Honeypots are computer systems used to capture hacker activity while collecting detailed information about their system interactions. Machine learning leverages predictive analytics to identify models within large data sets. In this class we will learn about honeypot capabilities and then describe the process of using machine learning as a way to automate the search for attacks.
Mini Classical Guitar Recital
Filene Hall, Filene Recital Hall
Brett Grigsby, Instructor, Classical Guitar
Brett Grigsby is a classical guitarist on the Music Faculty and will present works by J.S. Bach, Leo Brouwer, Manuel Ponce, and more.

“Sing We Alle”: The Medieval English Lyric
Bolton Hall, Room 281
Kate Greenspan, English
Lyric poetry was a major genre in the Middle Ages. This mini-course will introduce five lyric poems – songs of love, meditations, satires, and prayers – written in Middle English between the 13th and 15th centuries. We will study their seeming simplicity, their ingenious structure, their wit and emotional intensity, and we will read them aloud in their original tongue.

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.

Pour More: The Skidmore Lava Project
Kiln patio, behind Sasselin
Jennifer Cholnoky, Visiting Instructor, Geoscience and John Galt, Assistant Professor of Art with Bryce Wall ’20 and Rachel Adamsky ’20
Basalt is one of the most common rocks in Earth’s crust. It underlies all of our ocean basins. Tremendous eruptions of flood basalt coincide with some of Earth’s largest extinction events. It is the bedrock of many locations including Hawaii, Iceland, and the Galapagos Islands. It has also been used to create sculptures across cultures and millennia up to the present day. Stop by to learn more about the Skidmore Lava Project and see a demo lava pour. Weather permitting, we’ll have the furnace fired up and be melting basalt from 1 – 3 pm. We expect to be pouring the lava at about 2:30 pm. We are grateful for the generous support of the IdeaLab and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and the Kress Family Creative Pedagogy Grant.