

Students in M/T/Th studio are in Wednesday and Friday Liberal Arts sections.

Register for one section of S101. Topic descriptions for S101 are below the sections grid.

You have until Jan. 26th to register for your desired section of S101.

After Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, those not registered will be placed into an open section.

There are no waiting lists, or an add/drop period for S101. Please read through the descriptions carefully before selecting a section.

If a section is closed, move onto your second choice.

*You have been placed into a section of THAD-H102 by the Liberal Arts Division Academic Programs Coordinator.*

Student Planning: <https://ss.risd.edu/student>

Please follow directions from the registrar's office on how to register for your S101 section:

<https://risdregistrar.wordpress.com/students/registration/freshmen-registration/>

S101 Wednesday / Friday sections - Choose <u>one</u>			
HPSS-S101-06	Dharia	Introduction to Material Studies:	2:50-4:20
HPSS-S101-15	DuBois	People, Parks and Public Space	1:10-2:40
HPSS-S101-24	Keefer	Introduction to Aesthetics	2:50-4:20
HPSS-S101-19	Fitzsimons	The Us in the World Since 1945	2:50-4:20
HPSS-S101-25	Yess	Existentialism	8:00-9:30

## HPSS-S101 Topic Descriptions

### **S101-06 Introduction to Material Studies: Exploring S, M, L, XL Objects / Namita Dharia**

**WF 2:50-4:20**

From the forks and spoons we hold in our hands, to the machines that heal us, from the buildings and homes we live in, to the plants and animals we eat, and to the cables and servers that support our digital selves: non-human entities small, medium, and large surround and support our lives. This course studies the social role of objects, animals, plants, and landscapes from historic to contemporary times. It explores how non-humans (things and living beings) govern, shape, and undergird our social worlds and looks at the relationship between human beings, animals, and objects. We will discuss small acts of gift giving, medium sized industrial objects, and explore large and extra-large scales through technologies, networks, and manmade cities and landscapes. The course serves as an introductory course to thing theory, new materialisms, and anthropology.

### **S101-15 People, Parks and Public Space / Bryce DuBois**

**TTH 1:10-2:40**

In this course we will investigate public space as a contested realm, through theories of place and culture. For example, public space is deemed to be a crucial aspect of democracy, while parks specifically receive attention for their ecosystem services. However, others theorize an 'end of public space,' contending that capitalism (neoliberalization) tends towards abstract space and the closure of truly public space. We will ask questions such as: How do the ideas about the neoliberalization of public space relate to those about green space? As an S101 course, we will pay close attention to the writer's disciplinary perspective and assertions, considering each of the different perspectives, their 'projects,' and their epistemological positions. Finally, we will use asynchronous activities to aid in your introduction to the field and in our critical analysis of the theories and methods employed in this work, working towards a series of short papers.

### **S101-19 From the War on Communism to the War on Terror: The Us in the World Since 1945 / David Fitzsimons**

**WF 2:50-4:20**

The 20th-century contest for empire between capitalism and communism killed millions of persons in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, degraded the environment and risked its nuclear destruction, and led to the anti-Islamic basis of American policy since 9-11. Through the close examination of key primary and secondary sources, writing assignments, and class discussions and presentations, students will learn to think, speak, and write critically about the geopolitical, economic, cultural, ideological, and domestic forces that shape American foreign relations to this day.

### **S101-24 Introduction to Aesthetics / Don Keefer**

**WF 2:50-4:20**

This course introduces you to several millennia of theorizing about the nature of beauty, aesthetic experience, taste, the definition of art, its function, and its relation to culture, ethics, and politics. We will approach the philosophy of art globally, in readings from ancient Greece, the European Enlightenment, Islam, Africa, and contemporary theorists and debate some of the key controversies in the contemporary art world.

This course will involve lectures, readings, group and class discussions dedicated to exploration of the topics from a variety of perspectives. Evaluation will be based on participation in discussion fora, quizzes and written assignments.

**S101-254 Existentialism / James Yess**

**WF 8:00-9:30**

This is a course about how to think, write, and read philosophically. Samples of classic philosophical writings in existentialism on topics such as free will, personal identity, subjective value, the existence of God, and the meaning of human existence will be the launching pads for students' oral and written analysis. Philosophical and literary texts in addition to class discussions will be used to encourage close scrutiny of underlying assumptions, logical progression, and how well claims are substantiated. By noting the strengths and weaknesses in the arguments of others and practicing the skill of philosophical argumentation, students will be better able to navigate through the thickets of challenges arising from everyday living as persons of careful thought and considered action.