September 2007

VU College of Arts and Science Lectures in the Humanities*

Tuesday, September 4th

6:00 p.m. — Jose Torres Tama, performance artist. Keynote address regarding performance art and influences on his work, political identity, and the concept of art for social change, Co-sponsored by the Sarratt Art Gallery and the Department of Art. The talk will take place in the Ingram Studio Arts Center Multimedia Hall, 214 Second Floor, with a reception to follow.

Wednesday, September 5th

12:00 p.m. — Disabilities Studies, a seminar designed to discuss disability from an interdisciplinary angle. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

Friday, September 7th

4:00 p.m. — David J. Wasserstein, Eugene Greener Jr. Professor of Jewish Studies. “The Date-Seller and the Rabbi: Fictions of History,” Presented as the inaugural lecture of the Greener Chair in Jewish Studies. Room 126 Wilson Hall, with a reception to follow.

Tuesday, September 11th

4:00 p.m. — David Uttal, Associate Professor of Psychology and Education at Northwestern University. “Seeing the Big Picture: Spatial Symbols, Spatial Thought, and Spatial Education.” Presented by the Learning Sciences Institute Visiting Scholars Speaker Series; The talk will be held in 223 Wyatt Center, with a reception to follow.


Monday, September 10th

5:00 p.m. — Food Politics Reading and Working Group, a seminar designed to begin an interdisciplinary conversation about the political dimensions of global and local foodways, agricultural practices, and consumption habits. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

Wednesday, September 12th


Thursday, September 13th

11:30 a.m. — Reclaiming Citizenship, a seminar designed to explore theories of citizenship that will be translated to a usable pedagogical framework. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

6:30 p.m. — Corinne Dale, Professor of Literature at Belmont University. “Hidden Dragons: Chinese Landscape Paintings from the Roy and Marilyn Papp Collection.” Presented by the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in their Off the Wall Lecture Series, this lecture is in collaboration with the Belmont University Asian Studies Program. The lecture will take place at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

Monday, September 17th

4:00 p.m. — Theresa M. Kelley, Marjorie and Lorin Tiefenthaler Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin. “Reading Matter and Paint: Indian Botanicals and Romantic Imperial Botany.” Sponsored by the Department of English. Room TBA.

Wednesday, September 19th

11:30 a.m. — Richard McGregor, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies. “Islamic Studies at Vanderbilt: The Promise and Perils of an Area Study.” Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities with its Women’s and Gender Studies Seminar, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

4:10 p.m. — Edward Ahearne, University Professor of Comparative Literature and French Studies at Brown University. “Sex, Race and the City,” Co-sponsored by the 2007-2008 Fellows of the Warren Center and the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Baudelaire’s Les Fleurs du mal (Flowers of Evil). The lecture will take place at the Bandy Center, with a reception to follow.

Thursday, September 20th

4:00 p.m. — Susan Schulten, Associate Professor of History at the University of Denver. “The Cartography of Slavery and the Authority of Statistics.” Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities with its American Studies Working Paper Series, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

4:15 p.m. — Marsha Haufier, Professor of Later Chinese Art History at the University of Kansas. “Made in Beijing: Sino-Tibetan Tangkas for the Ming Court.” Sponsored by the Department of the History of Art, Room 206 Old Gym.

Friday, September 21st

12:00 p.m. — Nineteenth Century Studies, a seminar that focuses upon the history, art, literature, and culture of the long nineteenth century (ca. 1768-1914). Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

Tuesday, September 25th

4:10 p.m. — Dorothea Smartt, poet. “What is Black British Literature?” Location TBA. For more information, contact the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities.

Wednesday, September 26th

12:00 p.m. — Circum-Atlantic Studies Working Group, a seminar with a focus on scholarship that is interdisciplinary in nature, and treats some aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and/or postcolonialism. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

Thursday, September 27th

4:00 p.m. — Ellen T. Armour, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter University Professor of Feminist Theology. “Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve? Theology, Theory and the Debate over Homosexuality.” The lecture will be held in Benton Chapel, with a reception to follow.

4:10 p.m. — Metaphysics and Its Applications, a seminar designed to explore metaphysics, an inquiry into the nature of reality in its most general aspects. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

Friday, September 28th

12:00 p.m. — Queer Theory Reading Group, a seminar discussing emergent issues in queer theory and its intersections with theories of gender, race, class, sexuality, and history. Sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the meeting will take place in the conference room of the Warren Center.

The Humanities Calendar is created by the Robert Penn Warren Center and is intended to increase awareness of public humanities events across disciplines. Unless otherwise noted, speakers are VU faculty members, graduate students, or staff. We rely on departments to send us information.