TOWARD THE FUTURE: RESOURCES FOR CITIZENSHIP

This Year 4 Honors Seminar will introduce students to the resources available in the popular (and semi-popular) public media that will help them become active citizens in their post-baccalaureate lives. Busy as they are, undergraduate students are often unaware of the various communities of people – researchers, writers, bloggers, and their readers – who are seriously engaged in creating public conversations about important areas of human activity. To be unaware of these public conversations is to miss the opportunity to participate in their worlds as the most informed and productive citizens possible.

We will survey, read, and analyze together a sample of print and electronic magazines, newsletters, newspapers, and blog-sites. We will sample discussions concerning current events, politics, environmental issues, food and other resources, social issues, public culture, the media, work, science and science policy, contemporary poetry and fiction, art and architecture, music, peoples and issues from around the globe, gender and sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, and other topics. In Spring Semester, we will choose one arena of public interest to focus upon in depth.

We will choose our materials collectively, although students will be given an extensive list of potential materials. We will begin by reading and analyzing an issue each of The Miami Herald, The Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, Newsweek, Utne Reader, and Slate. We will go from there. Students will be responsible for presenting oral and written analyses of the chosen materials in ways to be determined.