

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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FURMAN C. ARTHUR - INFORMATION

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SARASOTA--Fourteen New College seniors are currently participating in a two-term seminar based on a reading list developed by the students themselves.

The Senior Seminar, headed by philosophy professor, Dr. Gresham Riley, meets once a week for two hours in the evening, at the homes of participating faculty.

Other faculty members in the seminar include history professor, Dr. George Mayer and mathematics tutor, Roger Peters.

According to Dr. Riley, the reading list was developed by the students themselves from their own interests. He said they were chosen on the basis of important issues they reflect, rather than their scholarship or literary quality.

The reading list for the first term of the course includes twelve books and articles. Among them are: James Joyce's Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man; Democracy and Education by John Dewey; Future of an Illusion and Civilization and its Discontents by Sigmund Freud; Robert Ardrey's African Genesis; and After Many a Summer Dies the Swan by Aldous Huxley.

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Riley said no particular theme is chosen for the course, although last year, the first year the seminar was held, several themes emerged throughout the year, including "the role of the intellectual in social and political movements."

Students take the senior seminar to fulfill the requirement of a two-term course outside their major field their final year. Riley pointed out that although the course is not intended to combine all the divisions of the college--social sciences, humanities and natural sciences--faculty members and students in the seminar come from all three divisions.

Dr. Riley said students last year began the seminar thinking in terms of their own disciplines, employing technical jargon. As the seminar progressed, however, a common vocabulary began to be used, and divisional boundaries were overcome.

The faculty members participating in the seminar, Riley said, have the role of making sure participating students "deal honestly with the critical issues."

Although Professor Riley feels the seminar will be uneven, since it will be dealing with a body of information that is not well-defined, he is optimistic a "stimulating intellectual experience" will be obtained by both student and faculty participants.

Last year's seminar produced "some of the most fruitful and exciting intellectual experiences I found all year," he said.