



1 June 2024

Dear new Scripps student,

Hello, and welcome to Scripps College! My name is Corey Tazzara: I am an Associate Professor of History and the Elizabeth Hubert Malott Endowed Chair for the Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities (known less grandiloquently as the “Core Director”).

A central part of your Scripps experience will be the Core Curriculum in Interdisciplinary Humanities, a three-part sequence considered the foundation of a Scripps education. Core is designed to introduce you via interdisciplinary study to some of the major debates and concepts that have shaped the modern world. The first semester of Core is a broad foundational course in which students and faculty examine contemporary issues and debates through a historical lens.

Every three years, the “theme” of Core I changes; this fall, in Core I, the theme is “Crossroads”. Here is the course description:

Core I considers the constraints we face both collectively and individually. Often it may seem like we have no meaningful choices left to make, so powerful do these forces appear. One need only recall the political situation or global warming to feel an oppressive sense of helplessness; or, at a more individual level, we may languish under the imperatives of social media or anxiety about success in school (and, eventually, in a career). But are we truly without options? In addressing these concerns, we consider how institutions, categories such as race and gender, and other cultural frameworks influence our sense of possibility. This course reconsiders crossroads in the sense of crisis but also of choice.

The materials for Core I include an online course reader and several books. The books will be available for purchase at the Huntley Bookstore. You may also purchase the books from other vendors: if you do, please be sure to buy the exact editions that we have specified, since editions can vary widely (verify the ISBN to ensure you have the correct one). During discussions, people will refer to passage and specific page numbers; so even if you already own a different edition of an assigned book, it is important that you obtain the specified edition for class. There will also be an opportunity to receive free books from the Core I Book Recycling Program during the week of NSPO activities. The books will be available at a first-come, first-serve basis. If you anticipate financial difficulties in procuring the books, please contact the Core Coordinator Christina Ranney at cranney@scrippscollege.edu or (909) 621-8326; you may also contact her with any other questions about Core I, or me at ctazzara@scrippscollege.edu.

Sincerely,

Corey Tazzara