



15 June 2023

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 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 lectures and 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. 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

Core I – Fall 2023 Required Books
“Histories of the Present” - Crossroads

If you choose to order your Core I textbooks from Huntley Bookstore of The Claremont Colleges, you may do so online at www.claremont.bkstr.com or purchase them at the store when you arrive to campus in the fall. You may also purchase these books online or through other vendors; please refer to the ISBN numbers to ensure that you are purchasing the correct edition. Please keep in mind if ordering over the summer that you may be able to find inexpensive used copies online, and you will have time to wait for them to be shipped to you; however, during the semester you may not have enough time to wait for such shipments. If there are any circumstances which make it a challenge to obtain copies of the books, or if an alternative format for any reading is needed, please contact the Core Program office at core@scrippscollege.edu or (909) 621-8326.

Carl Rodgers, *On Becoming a Person*

Publisher: Harper One, 2nd Edition, 1995 ISBN: 978-0395755310

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say: Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company, 2021, 5th edition; ISBN: 978-0393538700

John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*

Publisher: Penguin Books, 1990, 1st Edition, ISBN: 978-0140135152

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Publisher: Vintage, 1992, ISBN: 978-0679741954

Elena Ferrante, *My Brilliant Friend*

Publisher: Europa Editions, 2012, ISBN: 978-1609455064

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

Publisher: John Hopkins University Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-1421409887

Charles Yu, *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*

Publisher: Vintage, 2011. ISBN: 978-0307739452