



Google, Gadgets and Gizmos: Inventions and Innovation, Carole C. Barnett, Ph. D., Jacksonville University, Wednesdays 5-7 p.m. January 18- April 4, 2012

Seminar Summary: This is an interdisciplinary seminar which will explore how access to knowledge and technological developments have affected our world from how and what we “see” to what we know. We will explore how developments in science and technology have improved (or worsened) the world in which we live. We will trek through history and the far ranging realms of art, agriculture, transportation and the sciences as viewed through the lens of the artist, writer, historian and scientist. Your individual interests and classroom needs will be our “road map” of exploration.

It would seem that the world of Wiki culture and Google has created instant access to facts and information which were once only harbored by scientists and learned men and women. If the Middle Ages had a problem with lack of knowledge, then contemporary society and our students are drowning in “information overload”. Our communal culture has enabled us to create “virtual” worlds which would amaze the likes of Leonardo Da Vinci. With so much knowledge just “one click” away, we are free to explore our wildest dreams and interests in this seminar from Aabacus to Zeitgeist. Being trained as an “Interdisciplinary Humanist” I have always fostered a great love of the arts and sciences. I look forward to a shared learning community whereby we are all empowered, engaged and energized!

Weekly seminars will be based upon a thematic focus. The seminar has been designed to allow you freedom to inquire and read at your leisure. The majority of our work will be done in class. Each participant will create an informal presentation based upon his or her interests.

Seminar Topics:

- The World in the Year 1000 “Medieval Minds”
- Global Connections and Discoveries
- Enlightenment: Lenses and Light (Art and Astronomy)
- Agrarian Societies and Culture (Crops, Food Supply)
- Powering our World (Steam, Electricity, Nuclear Energy)
- Mother Nature (Climate, Environment, Geology)
- Virtual Worlds (Education and Technology)
- Envisioning the Future (Science Fiction, Wiki Worlds)

Dr. Barnett has been a Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities at Jacksonville University since 1998. She recently spent time in the Middle East on sabbatical teaching at the United Arab Emirates University. Dr. Barnett was the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities Grants and conducted research at the University of

Chicago. She has travelled extensively through Europe, the Mediterranean and has a wide array of interests from culture and society to science. She has been associated with First Coast Scholars since its inception and loves working with Duval County teachers!