Dear Majors,

Spring Semester: Getting Started and Planning Ahead

Thank you for taking the time to read about the various opportunities and courses available during the spring semester. Here are some highlights to help you plan your courses:

- **Major Notes**
  - Prof. Dale Barleben
  - Prof. Richard Perez
  - Prof. Allison Pease
  - Prof. Jay Walitalo
  - Prof. Marny Tabb
  - Prof. Liza Yukins

- **Spring Course Preview**

  - **LIT 284: Film and Society**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - Professor John Jay will guide us through a survey of film theory and practice. We will explore how film has shaped and been shaped by cultural and historical contexts.

  - **LIT 313: Shakespeare in Performance**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - In this course, we will see one of the plays we study, Shakespeare's "Hamlet," performed live at the New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park!

  - **LIT 290**
    - **LIT 332: The Films of Spike Lee**
      - Prof. John Jay
      - This course will focus on the work of Spike Lee, exploring his influence on contemporary cinema. We will analyze his films in the context of their historical and social significance.

  - **LIT 340/AAL 340: The African American Experience in American Literature**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will focus on the works of African American authors, examining their contributions to American literature.

  - **LIT 405: Senior Seminar in Literature and the Law**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This seminar explores the legal interpretation of literary texts characters ask themselves, Should I follow socially acceptable behavior or pursue a path of personal or communal happiness?

  - **LIT 400: Senior Seminar in Literature**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will focus on the works of nineteenth-century American authors, such as Herman Melville, Harriet Jacobs, and Mark Twain. We will examine how these authors engage with the themes of love and hate, success and failure, incest and revenge.

  - **LIT 398: History of the English Language**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - In this course, we will explore the development of the English language from Old English to Modern English. We will discuss dialects and regional variations in language.

  - **LIT 316: The Films of Spike Lee**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will focus on the work of Spike Lee, exploring his influence on contemporary cinema. We will analyze his films in the context of their historical and social significance.

  - **LIT 260: Introduction to Shakespeare**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will introduce students to the works of William Shakespeare. We will focus on his comedies and tragedies, discussing their themes and literary techniques.

  - **LIT 305: Foundations of Literature and the Law**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will focus on the legal interpretation of literary texts. We will explore how literature is used as a tool to understand and analyze legal principles.

  - **LIT 297: Shakespeare and Chuck D**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will explore the intersection of Shakespeare's works and hip-hop culture. We will analyze how these two forms of expression have influenced each other.

  - **LIT 397: Shakespeare and Contemporary Performance**
    - Prof. John Jay
    - This course will focus on the study of Shakespeare's plays in contemporary performance. We will explore how these productions have adapted and reimagined Shakespeare's works for modern audiences.

Please be sure to consult with your faculty advisor to determine which courses will best fit your interests and aspirations. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your advisor or the English Department.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]