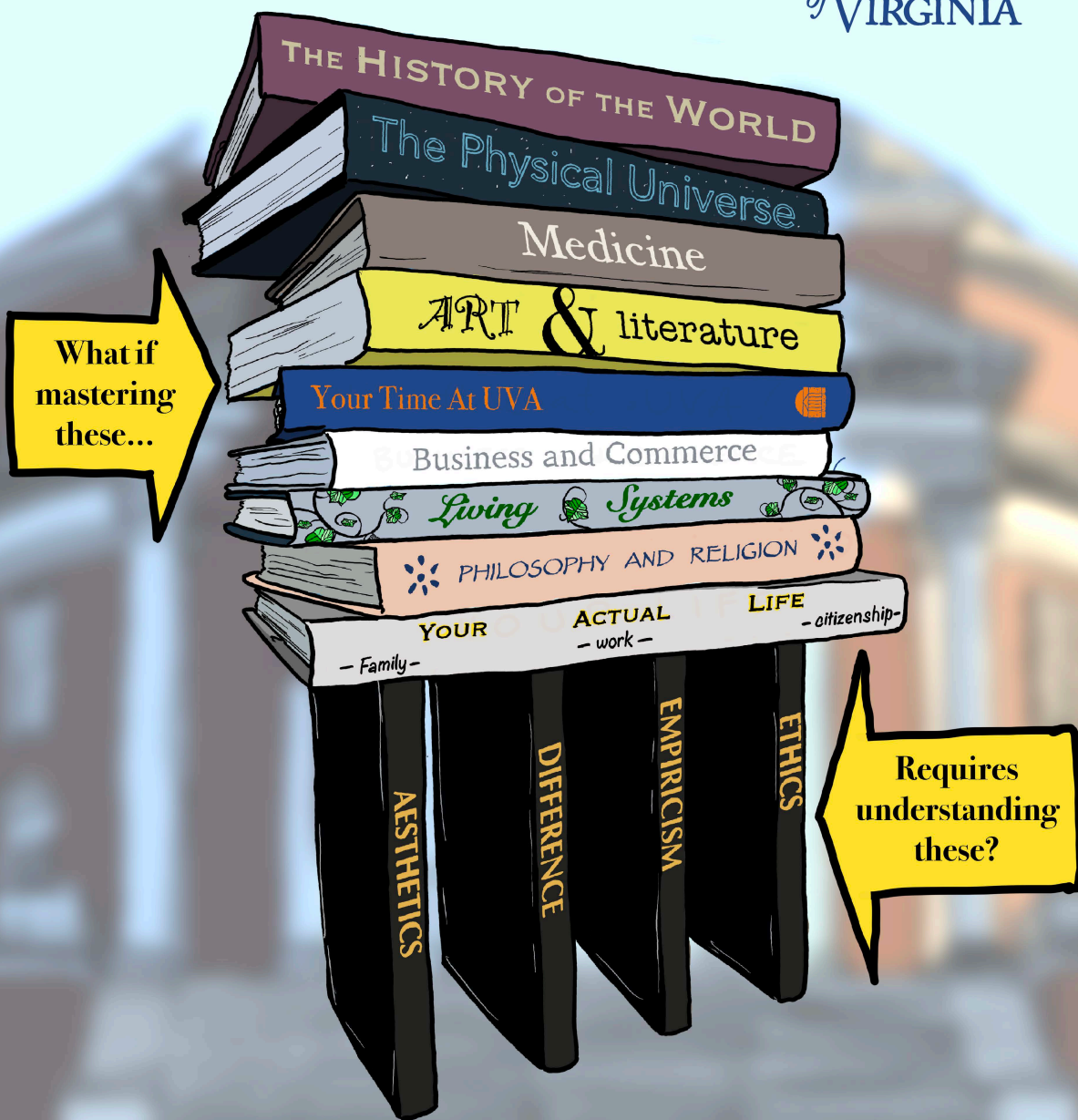
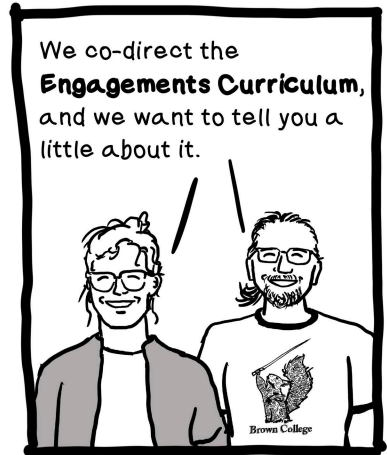
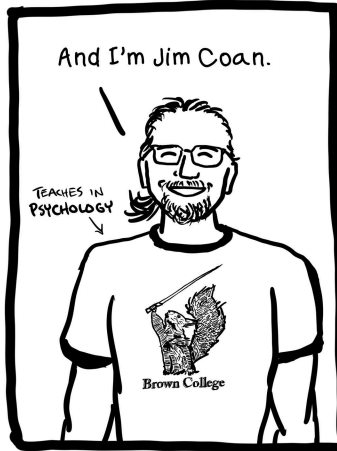


THE ENGAGEMENTS

at the UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA





The Engagements are a series of **small, seminar-style** courses that you'll take in your **first year** at UVA. Altogether, they'll amount to **8 of your 30-plus first year credits**.

You'll meet some of UVA's **most celebrated scholars and teachers**, who'll ask you think and talk about some of life's most **profound questions**.

These courses don't emphasize evaluation so much as **participation**.

They're designed to help you **see and express yourselves** as much as learn about a particular subject, and they aren't all the same.

You'll choose one 2-credit course from each of the **following four categories...**



AESTHETICS

EGMT 1510

How does **creativity** help us make sense of ourselves, each other, and the world?

How does **art** move, convince, and transform us?

UVA should help you **think critically** about the nature of art and artistry, **describe and analyze** aesthetic experiences, **reflect** on the historical, geographical, and cultural differences that shape aesthetic experiences, and **explore** the role of art in everyday life, social evolution, political discourse, and even environmental crisis.

THIS IS NOT A CAT



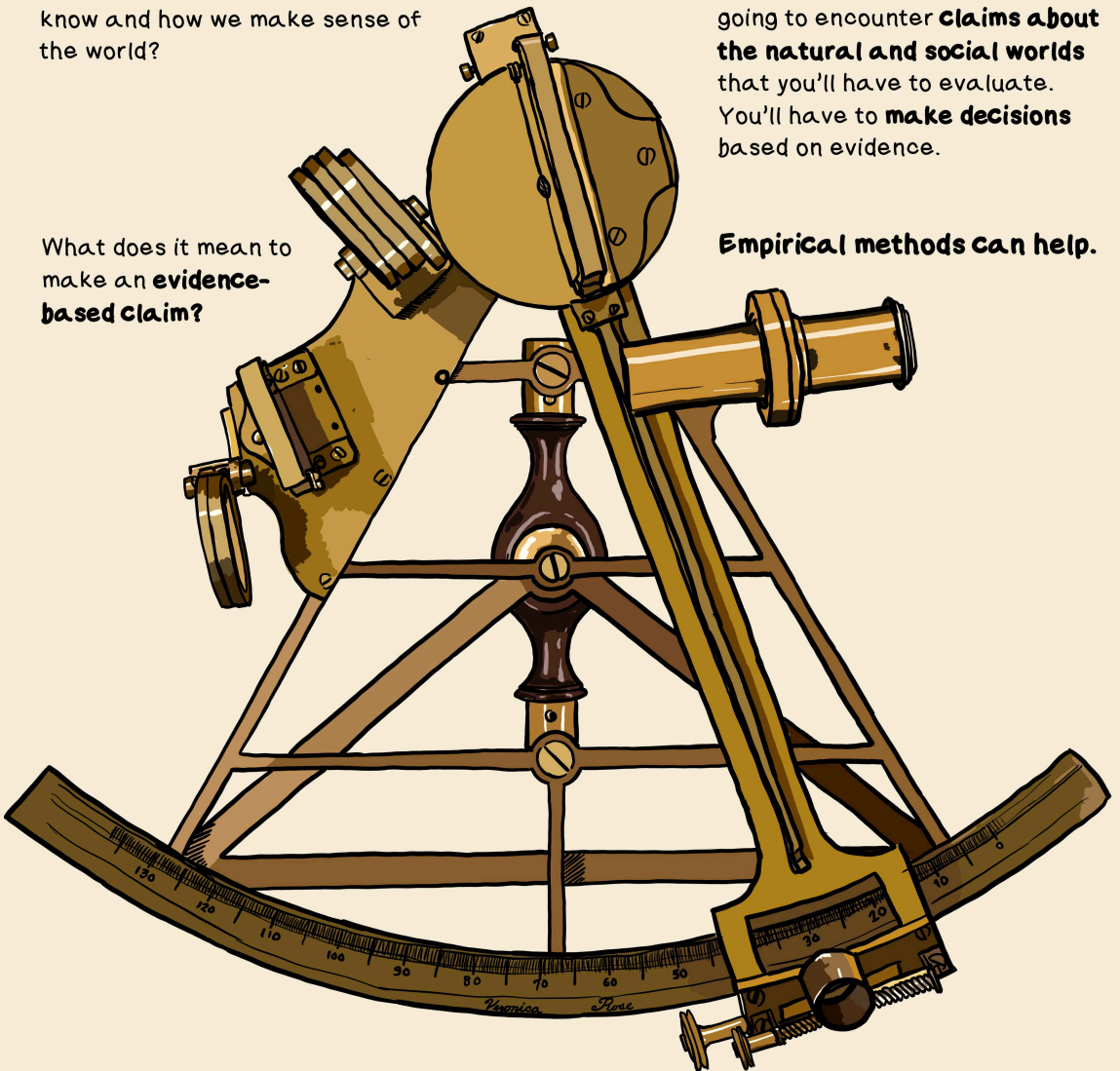
EGMT 1520 EMPIRICISM

How does evidence **inform** what we know and how we make sense of the world?

All through your life, you are going to encounter **claims about the natural and social worlds** that you'll have to evaluate. You'll have to **make decisions** based on evidence.

What does it mean to make an **evidence-based claim**?

Empirical methods can help.



UVA should help you to understand **what empirical evidence is**, to identify **knowledge** based on what is **observable**, to **evaluate claims** framed in empirical terms, and consider the limitations of empirical approaches in appreciating subjective phenomena.

EGMT 1530 DIFFERENCE

In nature, **variation** is the rule.

In contemporary global society, **pluralism** reigns.

At the very least, UVA should help acquaint you with the **richness and complexity** of humanity.

But we should also help you **reflect** on **inequities** rooted in social, economic, racial, and cultural differences...

...**understand** how these inequities embed themselves in our **norms and institutions**...

...and **consider** how we express our differences in ways that can either perpetuate **harmful discrimination**...

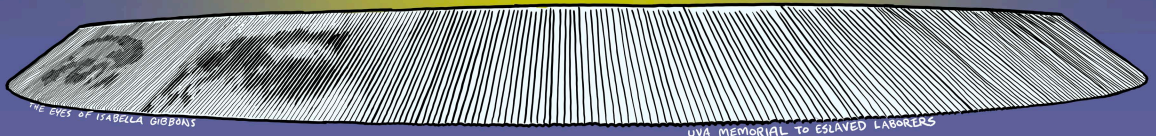
...or **enliven** our **common human experience**.



EGMT 1540 ETHICS

How do we relate to ourselves, to others, to the world?

What are the behaviors, habits, and dispositions that constitute a **good, responsible, and successful** life?



Ethical decisions are inevitable—even **ignoring** conflict and controversy is itself an ethical decision! UVA should help you to **articulate, evaluate and respond to ethical questions on purpose** as you reflect upon different **ethical traditions** and **really think** about what it means to live a **good life**.

But UVA should also help you to see that **some ethical differences can't be reconciled**. That is, sometimes, you will fundamentally disagree with others about what the ethical response to a problem should be. UVA should help you learn how to navigate those very difficult and **inevitable** moments... **constructively**.

Hi! I'm Bo Odom!

I administer the **College Fellows Program** and the **Engagements Curriculum**, and even teach my own Engagement classes.

There are a few final things I'd really like you to know about the Engagements.

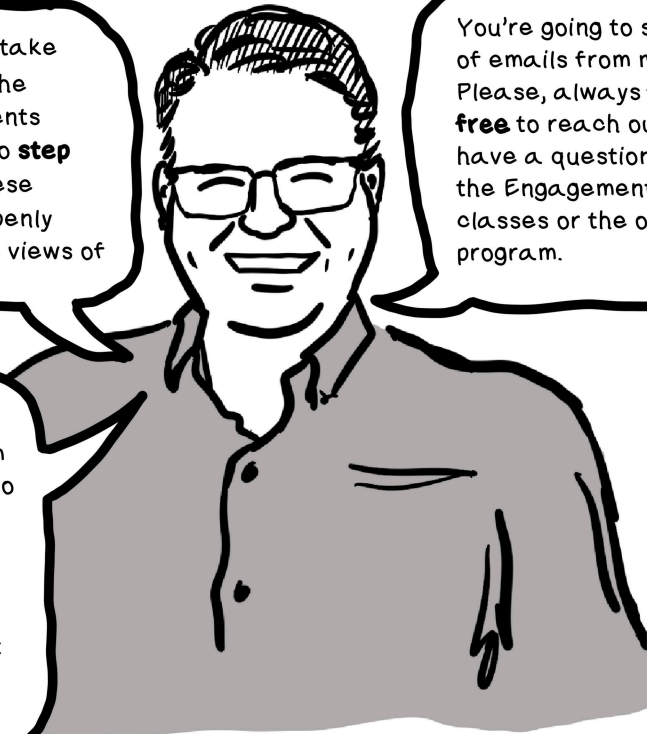
First, each course is 7 weeks long. You'll take two per semester in your first year.

Second, the Engagements **classes are intentionally small**. This is so you can get experience right away with participating—asking **questions**, expressing your **views**, and engaging in **debate**.

Third, we really want you to take **risks**. The College Fellows — the faculty teaching the Engagements classes — are ready for you to **step out of your comfort zone**. These classes are **safe places** to openly state your views and hear the views of others.

You're going to see a lot of emails from me. Please, always **feel free** to reach out if you have a question about the Engagements classes or the overall program.

Finally, the Engagements classes are **all different** from year to year, even semester to semester. Expect variability! **(Just like life!)** Chances are good that your course is not going to be the same as your friends'. This is a feature, not a bug! **Share what you're learning** with each other!



PS: Some students wonder how the Engagements will help them get into, say, the business or law school. Well, they might not. **Not directly.**

But **UVA** is about so much more than a single profession or specialty. **UVA** is about preparing you for **anything** you do!

And so **the Engagements** aren't there to prepare you to get into a particular school, but they absolutely are about preparing you to be a **better** doctor, accountant, CEO, teacher, lawyer, scientist, philosopher... **and student!**

They are about preparing you for life!



This comic-style introduction to the
UVA ENGAGEMENTS CURRICULUM
was made by Co-Director
JIM COAN



