Since *Getting Started* went to press, the following Freshman Seminars have been added:

**Economics and Society**  
*Economics and Society* is a freshman seminar, open to interested students, and is without prerequisites of any kind. Two to four topics will be chosen for in-depth discussion during the semester. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: inequality (domestic and international); globalization (pros/cons); “big banks” and their role in financial crises; wars and national security; health and disease; capitalism and socialism. The seminar seeks to spread economic literacy among tomorrow’s opinion leaders, improve their ability and analyze social issues, help them explain their viewpoint to others, and understand different opinions. (The course cannot be used for Economics major/minor credit.) 3 units. L11 202

**Love Songs and Laptops: Rediscovering Medieval Music in the Digital Age**  
Using our laptops as portals into the past, students will gain first-hand experience as historical detectives. In this seminar, we will explore the world of medieval love – from the chivalrous and courtly to the bodily and obscene – as represented in books of songs from the fifteenth century. Scrumptiously decorated and preserved, five interrelated songbooks from central France, known as the “The Loire Chansonniers” contain the majority of love songs from this period. Working from digitized versions of the songbooks, online editions, and modern audio recordings, we will address the following questions: what do the songbooks tell us about the culture in which they were created? How do the graphic decorations that frame each song interact with its music and lyrics? Lastly, by contextualizing these digital sources with respect to the growing interests in the interface between the humanities and digital technology, we will discuss what we can gain from these developments and what – if anything – we stand to lose. (Ability to read music not required). 3 units. L27 1164

**The Secret Life of Plants**  
The course is designed to familiarize undergraduate students with the fascinating lives of plants, their evolution, their remarkable structural and morphological diversity, how they grow, and how they have been modified to feed the planet. Topics include: how plants can survive with just water, minerals and light; how they transport water astonishing distances; their unusual sex lives; why they make seeds; how they can grow nearly forever; how plants survive extreme environments without running to hide; why they synthesize caffeine, nicotine, THC, and opiates; how they defend themselves from pathogens without an immune system; how they sense their environment without complicated sensory organs; how plants have been modified by humans to provide food, fiber, and fuel; and how genetically modified (GMO) crops are made and their implications to the environment and society. Overall goals are to enhance an understanding and appreciation of the plant kingdom, to help young scientists understand the primary scientific literature, and as a starting point for possible careers in plant biology. Where appropriate, the class will also emphasize key differences between plants and animals.  
This course will be designed primarily for freshman interested in majoring in biology with a focus on plants, as well as those that want to know more about where their food comes from, how these amazing creatures survive and flourish, and how GMO crops are engineered. Upper levels students with an interest in food and agriculture but not necessarily focusing on plants will also be welcome if space permits. 3 units. L41 1260