Sample Seminars offered by Tembusu College on 11 May 2012

IEM: Prizes & Popular Culture, brought to you by Paul Nerney & Coleen Angove at Tembusu College Learn Lobe Seminar Room 4 (Session 1 - 3:00PM & Session 2 - 3:30PM)

In this writing course students will read, debate, blog and write about prizes, ranging from the Nobel, to Asia's Biggest Loser, including students' personal favourites. Students will consider the role that prizes play in shaping taste, how prizes evolve to respond to different cultural and historical contexts, and what they reflect about modern culture. Students will enter into a debate about the meaning of prizes by analysing popular and scholarly texts, visiting websites and watching films. In this small-class, interactive environment, the tutor will support students in honing reading and writing skills, while becoming sensitive to different rhetorical strategies.

On Blindness, brought to you by Jeremy Fernando at Tembusu College Learn Lobe Seminar Room 5 (Session 1 - 3:00PM & Session 2 - 3:30PM)

To talk is not to see. To talk frees thought from this optical need subjecting since millennia the traditional western approach to things and driving our thought to rely on light or to feel threatened by the absence of light.

*Maurice Blanchot, L'entretien infini*

This freshman seminar attempts to explore the relationality between seeing and knowledge. It begins with a meditation on the phrase “seeing is believing”; and questions the privileging of sight over all the other senses. Through a close reading of various texts, seminar participants will explore the relationality between sight and blindness—are they necessarily antonyms, or are they always already a part of each other? And if they are intimately related, what are the implications on knowledge? Are we all potentially blind to our own insights?

Social Innovation, brought to you by Kelvin Pang at Tembusu College Learn Lobe Seminar Room 6 (Session 1 - 3:00PM & Session 2 - 3:30PM)

The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth, so that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship.

*Andrew Carnegie, The Gospel of Wealth*

This freshman seminar will engage students in critical dialogue on the topic of social innovation. Drawing upon examples of innovation across various disciplines, students will be challenged to think about how new technology, strategies, concepts, and ideas can be harnessed to solve social problems.