

## FALL 2011 HEYMAN CENTER FRIENDS COLLOQUIUM

### **Two Cultures: The Humanities versus The Sciences in the Search for Truth**

Peter Pazzaglini

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30

#### Course Description

Professor Pazzaglini, Senior Scholar at the Heyman Center, will examine the critical relationship between the two cultures of the humanities and the sciences, especially within a 21<sup>st</sup> century university, in the search for knowledge. How do these two cultures approach methods and objects of knowing, ideas of progress and truth, ethics and value, and a deep understanding of human nature, self, and character? What role will technology and globalization play in developing fresh perspectives on diverse academic disciplines, both new and old, narrow and broad? Individually and collectively, these two cultures now face enormous global challenges of redressing economic disparity, setting educational priorities, and supporting environmental sustainability, justice and peace. Who will become the great synthesizers and public intellectuals of an emerging third culture, and who will help us to create new social contracts between the individual and the community?

#### Syllabus

- Sept. 22      C.P. Snow, The Two Cultures (2010), Cambridge pb.
- Oct. 6        Stefan Collini, Introduction (2010), Cambridge pb.
- Oct. 20      Adam Bly, editor, Science is Culture (2010), Harper pb.
- Nov. 3        E.O. Wilson, Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge (1998), Knopf pb.
- Nov. 17      Jonah Lehrer, Proust was a Neuroscientist (2008), Houghton Mifflin pb.
- Dec. 8        Richard Feynman, The Pleasure of Finding Things Out (1999), Perseus pb.
- Dec. 15      Make-up