THE GRINNELL COLLEGE
FRESHMAN TUTORIAL PROGRAM
was instituted in the fall of 1971 for all entering freshmen (and some sophomore transfer students). Evaluations submitted by students enrolled in the 35 tutorials offered in the first year have reflected strong approval of the program and substantial evidence of the advantages and benefits derived from it. A survey taken by the Office of the Dean of the College invited criticisms, where applicable, and these served as constructive suggestions for improving and strengthening the program to be offered students entering in the fall of 1972.

Under this program, each freshman is enrolled in a small group based upon a particular topic in which he or she expresses interest and for which the faculty tutor has special competency. The tutors, who are regular full-time members of the Grinnell faculty (including senior professors), also serve as the freshmen’s underclass academic advisers.

Each tutorial group of 12 or fewer students works closely with the faculty member. Individually or in groups of two or three, students undertake independent research on various important aspects of the tutorial subject, meeting in individual conferences for guidance from the instructor and, occasionally, as a group, to share problems and insights. Special emphasis is given to writing and research methods, the tutorial thus serving as a useful introduction to general academic work throughout the college and as an initial preparation in techniques for independent research projects in which the student may wish to engage later.

Although most of the tutorials are held in the fall semester, a few are not given until the spring semester. The entering freshman interested in one of these signs up for it at the beginning of the academic year, and the prospective tutor serves as the student’s adviser during the fall semester.

The following is an illustrative list drawn from the tutorials given during the academic year 1971-72. Titles and descriptions of the actual tutorials to be available for freshmen who enter in the fall of 1972 will be sent to them in a special mailing in June. Each freshman marks five tutorials in order of preference, and the Office of the Dean of the College assigns the student to a section according to this order. In the first year of operation, more than 80 per cent were given their first or second choice.

Booker T. Washington to the death of Marcus M. Garvey. Students, in consultation with the instructor, may elect to consider black literary writers, black scholars, black newspapers and journals, black leaders, or the black masses for their short papers as well as for their final semester papers.

AFR-O-AMERICAN STUDIES (also Religious Studies)
BLACK RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES
Several important concerns which are considered are African religion as background, the period of slavery and the white man’s Christianity the development and growth of the black church, the rise of sects (Father Divine, Daddy Grace), the Black Muslim movement (Malcolm X), the Civil Rights movement (King), and current black theology (Cone, Cleage).

AMERICAN STUDIES
COMING OF AGE IN AMERICA
Essays, autobiographies, and works of fiction which center on young ‘Americans’ discovery of themselves in their relationship to their cultures are considered, with especially intensive work on writing.

ANTHROPOLOGY
WESTERN MAN IN SEARCH OF THE “PRIMITIVE”
Students are encouraged to seek their own entrance into this subject, emphasizing anthropological, historical, literary, or philosophical works, or a combination of them — for example, Rousseau, Conrad, Levi-Strauss. Each individual must deal with the problem of the definition of “Western” and of “primitive,” so there may be a minimum core of shared reading.

ART
RENAISSANCE AND MODERN ARCHITECTURE
This tutorial deals with the aesthetic, philosophical, and social aspects of architecture in the two most important periods of modern European civilization. The work consists of construction problems to introduce the student to the principles of spatial design, short methodological papers, and a long research paper on a topic in contemporary architecture. The student is also responsible for a select bibliography.

BIOLOGY
THE PROBLEMS OF MAN
Readings focus on selected problems man faces in the next 50 years and possible and probable solutions to these. The topics under consideration are environmental destruction, urbanization, resource availability, population growth, and human aggression.

PLANTS, MAN, AND SURVIVAL
Man’s cultural evolution has been largely influenced by his selection and cultivation of certain plants and animals from the environment. In general, more efficient crops and increased varieties of crops led to more efficient animal husbandry. Greater efficiency in obtaining food set the stage for the beginnings of civilization. Obviously man is no less dependent upon plants for survival than he ever was, but his life style has become so sophisticated in many instances that he has lost sight of this. This tutorial considers questions relative to man’s survival both historically and predictively: that is, how has he survived in the past and what are his chances for the future?