Dear Class of 2019:

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA!

Undoubtedly, you have seen the words “Driven to Discover” around campus. It’s our way of expressing what we stand for at the U of M. The University is about discovery - the discovery of a brain cap that makes it possible to control computers with only your mind, the discovery that bacteria can be used to generate electricity, or the discovery of new technology, such as the robots designed to protect troops from harm. But discovery at the U is also about the discovery you are embarking on to find your place in the world - who you are, what you value, what you aspire to be. We are here to help you with these important discoveries.

This booklet will introduce you to an exciting array of small courses designed just for you, the Class of 2019. Studies from around the country have repeatedly shown that students do well in college and enjoy the experience when they get to know faculty members and other students. Freshman Seminars are designed to help you do just that; They are limited to about 15 to 20 students, so you will have a real opportunity to get to know other students in your class and to interact with a faculty member who will guide you and help you make the adjustment to college.

This is a wonderful opportunity to explore new areas or to test your interest in something you might eventually choose as a major. There are no prerequisites for any of these courses - except a willingness to learn, participate, and be open to new ideas and approaches. If you are in the University Honors Program, any Freshman Seminar you take will also count as an Honors experience.

So open your mind, explore the richness the University has to offer, and discover yourself!

Leslie Schiff
Associate Dean for the University Curriculum
Office of Undergraduate Education
What is a Freshman Seminar?

A Freshman Seminar is a small, discussion-oriented class that is designed just for first-year students. Faculty who teach Freshman Seminars have developed each class around their particular interests, and students are able to learn in a small class environment from an expert in the field.

What to expect in a Freshman Seminar:
› A small class (15-20 students) of first-year students where it is easier to talk, participate, and engage in class discussions
› Faculty who create these courses specifically for first-year students and are excited about the subject
› An opportunity to work with faculty who will help you better understand how to succeed academically at the University of Minnesota

Tips for success in a Freshman Seminar (and all your classes!):
› Come to class prepared with readings and assignments completed
› Express your thoughts and opinions by participating in group discussions
› Visit your professor during office hours
› Get to know your classmates
› Ask plenty of questions

Many Freshman Seminars meet Liberal Education (LE) or Writing Intensive (WI) requirements. The course number for each Freshman Seminar indicates if it meets any of these requirements:
› 1901 The Environment
› 1902 Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
› 1903 Civic Life and Ethics
› 1904 Global Perspectives
› 1905 No LEs, no WI
› 1942 Technology and Society
› 1906W The Environment and Writing Intensive
› 1907W Diversity and Social Justice in the United States and Writing Intensive
› 1908W Civic Life and Ethics and Writing Intensive
› 1909W Global Perspectives and Writing Intensive
› 1910W Writing Intensive
› 1943W Technology and Society and Writing Intensive

How to Search Online for Freshman Seminars

If you would like to search for a Freshman Seminar online, follow the steps below. The online class schedule will always contain the most up-to-date information on Freshman Seminars.

1. Log into MyU.umn.edu
2. Select the My Academics tab
3. Select the Registration sub-tab
4. Click Register (Shopping Cart)
5. Enter Search Criteria:
   » Select the term (Fall 2015 or Spring 2016)
   » Enter the five-digit class number or course designator and number
6. Click the “Search” button.

If you have questions about any of the Freshman Seminars, contact your academic advisor.
Freshman Seminars Abroad

Several of the Freshman Seminars listed in this booklet also include a study abroad opportunity. Freshman Seminars Abroad are a great introduction to studying abroad! These seminars combine on-campus instruction during spring semester 2016 with a study abroad component over spring break. You will receive three credits for your Freshman Seminar Abroad, and many fulfill a liberal education requirement.

To participate, apply through the Learning Abroad Center. There are deadlines to register for Freshman Seminars Abroad. For more information, visit: http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/programs/fsa.php or contact Sarah Tschida at tschi066@umn.edu or 612-626-6712.

Spring 2016 Freshman Seminars Abroad:

BIOL 1904: Innovation and Imagination in Ireland, page 40
Nicole Letawsky Shultz, College of Biological Sciences Student Services
Study Abroad in Ireland

CFAN 1901: Coral Reef Management, page 41
Jim Perry; Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Dawn Tanner; Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Study Abroad in Belize

DES 1904: Impressionism in Paris and Southern France, page 43
Monica Fogg, Graphic Design
Study Abroad in France

DES 1909W: Design in Istanbul, page 43
James Boyd Brent, Graphic Design
Study Abroad in Turkey

EDHD 1909W: Discovery and Conflict in Italy: Galileo on Trial, page 44
Laura Coffin Koch, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning
Study Abroad in Italy
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### Key to Symbols

- † Offered in Fall and Spring
- * Spring 2016 seminar
- ◊ Freshman Seminar Abroad
Homer’s Odyssey and Early Greek Society

Instructor & Department  S. Douglas Olson, Classical and Near Eastern Studies

Term Offered  Fall 2015  Course Designator & Section Number  CNES 1903, Section 001

Liberal Education Requirement(s)  LE: Civic Life and Ethics  Credits  3

Location  Nicholson Hall  Day(s) & Time(s) Offered  MW 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Location  East Bank, Minneapolis  Registration Number  26016

Seminar Description  Homer’s Odyssey is the story of a man who returns from war to find a world much different from the one he left 10 years earlier—and one that seems to have no place for him. On his way home, he lies to some, robs and murders others and—arguably through his own negligence—loses all his men. Once back on his native island of Ithaca, he re-establishes his authority as local strong-man through a mass killing of rivals. He is nonetheless emphatically a “hero” and the moral and political center of the story: what Odysseus does is (in the storyteller’s eyes, and those of most readers ever since) right and just. This seminar will use a close reading of the Odyssey, and a selection of modern reactions to it, to ask what sort of political and social world the poem imagines; how it formulates and discusses power and justice; and how it encourages its audience to accept judgments about human behavior and “what is right” that it may, upon reflection, find horrifying.

Instructor Biography  Ever since he was a boy growing up in small-town Illinois, S. Douglas Olson has been interested in the world’s oldest books and the languages in which they are written. Most of his research as a Distinguished McKnight University Professor involves ancient manuscripts and lost Greek plays and poems. He still believes that Homer’s Odyssey is among the richest and most exciting stories ever told. Don’t worry if you’ve read the book before; it’s going to be different this time.
FALL 2015 SEMINARS

Aircraft and Spacecraft

James Flaten, Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics
Fall 2015
AEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
Akerman Hall 215
East Bank, Minneapolis

This hands-on seminar will take students beyond model rocketry and into the realm of high-power rocketry, building rockets with H-size (or larger) motors, some capable of reaching altitudes of several thousand feet! Attending a day-long launch event with a local high-power rocketry club will be a required class activity for a weekend date, to be announced at the beginning of the semester. In addition to learning basic rocketry physics, using rocketry computer simulations, constructing high-power rockets, and flying them, this seminar will include lectures, discussions, and activities associated with the past, present, and future of real-spaceflight rocketry for manned and unmanned missions into low-Earth-orbit and beyond.

James Flaten is the associate director of the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, a NASA higher education program whose goals include promoting interest in space science and space exploration. Though housed in the Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics department, his academic background is actually in experimental physics and he has taught many physics and astronomy classes in the past. He enjoys using high-power rocketry and high-altitude ballooning as low-cost means of giving students hands-on experience building and flying space-related hardware.

Social and Cultural History of Blacks in Sports

Keletso Atkins, African American and African Studies
Fall 2015
AFRO 1902, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Blegen Hall 205
West Bank, Minneapolis
24029

Sports and games are about more than “the fun of play.” The history of sports, especially in this country, offers a unique lens through which deeper issues like racial politics and social justice can be examined. In this seminar, we will explore how major events in contemporary sports history – Jack Johnson’s victory over Tommy Burns to become the first Black World Heavyweight champion in 1908, or Jesse Owens’ triumph over Hitlerism in the 1936 Berlin Olympics – not only encapsulated critical social themes, but also dramatized those issues to oppressed people around the globe.

Keletso Atkins was born and raised in Chicago, a city which during much of the past century was considered the Black sports Mecca, as well as a center of radical political activism. This dynamic tradition profoundly shaped her youthful experiences and future academic interests. She is the recipient of two national book prizes on South African labor history, and is currently completing a manuscript on the historical links between Afro North America and South Africa from 1670 to 1870.

Bollywood Blockbusters and Beyond: An Introduction to Indian Cinema

Suvadip Sinha, Asian Languages and Literatures
Fall 2015
ALL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Rapson Hall 43
East Bank, Minneapolis
25079

Why do people sing and dance around in Bollywood films? How is Bollywood masala different from Hollywood cinema? What are the distinct features of Indian cinema? This seminar provides historical and critical understandings of these questions. By looking at various cinematic cultures in Bollywood and other Indian film industries, we will study how cinema as an art form and a medium of entertainment has evolved during the last 100 years. We will also study the characteristics of Bollywood genres like social melodrama, musicals, horror, and action. Our discussions will be supplemented with screenings of a number of Bollywood blockbusters and a few lesser-known films.

Bollywood was a forbidden pleasure for Suvadip Sinha as a kid. When he skipped school as a teenager to watch a Shahrukh Khan film for the third time, little did he know that he would be teaching and writing about Bollywood one day. His wish for this seminar is to incite the same thrill and passion for Bollywood cinema that has made it extremely popular and influential the world over.
The Latino Population Boom and the Transformation of America

Bianet Castellanos, American Studies

Fall 2015
AMST 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Tuesday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
24324

The United States will cease to be a majority-minority nation by 2043, with Latinos making up the largest minority group. This seminar will examine what this transformation means for Latinos in Midwestern communities. We will rely on a comparative ethnic framework that argues that these demographic and cultural shifts can only be understood in relation to similar shifts taking place within African-American, Asian-American, and American Indian communities. This seminar proposes a fundamental rethinking of how to envision a changing minority-majority nation and its implications for race and class relations inside and outside our classrooms, our university, and our communities in the Midwest and across the nation.

Bianet Castellanos’ interest in race and migration was inspired by her own immigration experience at the age of 3. It was an atypical migration by its sheer volume. Her mother, accompanied by her eight children and her younger brother, left her extended family in Mexico, to join her father, who was working as a farmworker in California’s San Joaquin Valley. This experience continues to inspire her interest in the social, economic, cultural, and legal barriers that define class, race, and gender in the Americas.

Time: Now and Then

David Valentine, Anthropology

Fall 2015
ANTH 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MW, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Blegen Hall 225
West Bank, Minneapolis
35164

This seminar examines Americans (including ourselves) who travel abroad and what our experiences – both present and historical – tell us about how we imagine others and ourselves. How do travel experiences transform Americans and the countries and cultures that they interact with? This seminar posits that paying careful attention to the movements of Americans globally – as tourists, consumers, workers, educators, military personnel, performers and the like – will help us understand the more abstract elements of globalization, including the ever-stronger economic, political, cultural, and commercial integration of the United States with the rest of the world. This seminar explores how the real movement of people across borders relates to these forces.

David Valentine is an associate professor of anthropology. He received his PhD in linguistic and cultural anthropology from New York University in 2000. His dissertation work was on the politics, histories, and meanings of the category transgender. His book, Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category (Duke University Press 2007), was awarded the Ruth Benedict Book Prize (SOLGA/American Anthropological Association). His current research is a 5-year longitudinal study of imaginings and narratives of the future among commercial outer space entrepreneurs, funded by the National Science Foundation.

A Sustainable Global Food System

Benjamin Senauer, Applied Economics

Fall 2015
APEC 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 6:05 p.m.
Blegen Hall 140
West Bank, Minneapolis
21292

The current global food system is not sustainable due to increasing regional water scarcity; its dependency on fossil fuels, other limited resources, and industrial chemicals; distributional inequities; and the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change. Meanwhile, the demand for food due to population growth and rising incomes continues to increase. We will explore the structure and elements of a truly sustainable system, which would provide food for all and protect, or even enhance, the environment. We will watch excerpts from the BBC’s “The Future of Food” and PBS’ “Food for 9 Billion,” taped interviews with experts, and discuss carefully selected readings. Developing a sustainable system will require using advanced science and technology, as well as traditional and organic farming approaches. Because of greater local weather extremes resulting from climate change, a globally interconnected system will be critical to responding to regional food shortages through trade and assistance.

Ben Senauer’s research focuses on topics like reducing global hunger and classes such as agricultural and economic development. He is increasingly concerned about the impacts of agricultural and economic growth on the environment, and the effects of environmental degradation on agriculture. His most rewarding activities at the University include his teaching and his work on major overseas development projects, particularly those in Bangladesh, Morocco, and Poland. He enjoys just about any outdoor activity, including hiking, biking, mountain skiing, sailing, and international travel.
**Say Something, Make Something: Transforming Language in Visual Art**

Jan Estep, Art

Fall 2015  
ARTS 1905, Section 001  
3 credits  
Friday, 10:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.  
Regis W175  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
23711

This studio arts seminar explores the relationship between language and visual art. Our investigations will be conceptual, experiential, and material. Conceptually, we will look at the way language relates to the world, how the brain/body processes language, and the connection between perception and interpretation. Experientially, we will look at the ordinary ways we use language in our daily lives as a means of communication, to identify ourselves, how it shapes behavior, and how it affects the body. Materially, we will explore ways of incorporating language into various art projects, ranging from photography, drawing, bookmaking, writing, and performance. This seminar is open to all students who are willing to experiment with creative practices; an arts background is welcome but not necessary.

Jan Estep has always loved asking questions because she is curious about how we relate to the world and to each other. This curiosity has led her to study many different fields including art, biology, and philosophy, and to develop many different ways of communicating her thoughts and feelings. As an exhibiting artist, published writer, and trained philosopher, she wonders: Is it possible to combine a keen sense of philosophical inquiry with an equally robust creative imagination? To be an artist/philosopher/poet all at once? She welcomes others who might be curious about combining art, language, and philosophy to explore the connections together.

**Visual Wonder from an Artist’s Perspective**

Diane Katsiaficas, Art

Fall 2015  
ARTS 1905, Section 002  
3 credits  
Wednesday, 1:25 – 4:25 p.m.  
Regis W240  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
24143

This seminar investigates “visual wonder” from an artist's perspective. What, why, and how do visual works initiate marvel, surprise, pleasure, delight, conjecture, and confusion? We will research work where artists individually or collectively have revealed, imitated, interpreted, and reinvented the margins of experiencing beauty, unfathomable phenomena, tragedy, and trauma; and local and global political inconsistencies and concerns. We will attempt to create a few works of wonder of our own where students will use a variety of materials and approaches. Our thought and work process will be one which is intended and known while also random, chanced, and intuitive.

Diane Katsiaficas has always wondered what can be seen around the next corner. She survived a peripatetic upbringing on three continents to major in chemistry (and minor in art). In pursuit of visual wonder, she has traveled extensively to examine the treasures of the ancient and present world, the existent frescoes and mosaics of the Byzantine, and contemporary museums and galleries. In her art, she is a visual storyteller drawn to stories and places that resonate with social conscience and responsible practice. She uses a variety of techniques and technologies – from small drawings and digital syntheses to large-scale installations.

**Place Matters: Seeing the Mississippi**

Diane Willow, Art

Fall 2015  
ARTS 1905 Section 003  
3 credits  
Tuesday, 1:25 – 4:25 p.m.  
Regis W123  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
35310

This seminar is an invitation to explore how we each develop attachments to particular places, and how this process sparks a sense of connection and community. We will focus on the Mississippi River, the site of an urban National Park, which flows through campus. Within view of all who travel between the east and west banks of the University of Minnesota, it immediately captures our imaginations. Our process will include introductions to a range of creative media, including photography, video, text, and audio, as well as regular visits to the river and related cultural sites. Together these will become ongoing catalysts for deepening our personal relationships to the Mississippi River. Guest artists, musicians, architects, poets, and scientists will expand our perspectives as we create collaborative and personal cartographies and interpretations of the places along the river that begin to gather personal meaning and matter.

Diane Willow is a multi-modal artist. “By any media necessary” best describes her process. Her public installations, interactive environments, and evocative objects involve media as eclectic as bioluminescent plankton, found sound, and a rolling foot cam. Focused on art as experience, she invites people to engage in multi-sensory explorations as participants and choreographers rather than simply as viewers. She is particularly interested in the ways that we develop and transform our sense of place and how this process is influenced by our contemporary views of nature, technology, and community.
Exoplanets, Habitability, and the Search for “Alien” Life

Charles Woodward, Astrophysics

This seminar will explore which regions in the solar system may harbor life at present or may have supported life in the past. The prime focus will be on Mars, and satellite worlds of the Jovian planets. We will explore the link between science and science fiction related to our fascination with Mars as a planet for human colonization and contact with “alien life forms.” Our discussion of astrobiology will also focus on the potential requirements of the habitability zones in the exoplanetary systems. The necessary conditions for supporting life will also be discussed. We will discuss the historical evolution of this emerging branch of astronomy, discuss the roles of the “citizen scientist,” and review NASA missions and ground-based programs conducted at the University of Minnesota designed to search for alien worlds.

Charles “Chick” Woodward is an infrared astronomer whose primary research activities comprise observational research programs on comets, evolved stars, and stellar populations using a variety of space-based (e.g., Hubble, Spitzer, Chandra, Swift, XMM-Newton) and ground-based facilities. He serves as the principal University of Minnesota representative to various Large Binocular Telescope Consortium Committees, and is the departmental coordinator for telescope time allocation.

Cosmic Catastrophes: Things that Go Bump in the Night

Charles Woodward, Astrophysics

This seminar will explore how the evolution of bodies in the solar system were affected by “cosmic impacts and other catastrophes,” with special emphasis on how such events affected the biosphere of the Earth. We will focus attention on the nature of scientific discovery and debate by studying views on various terrestrial extinction events. We also shall explore how this scientific conversation led to deeper insight into the evolution of complex terrestrial bio-systems and our quest to identify which regions in the solar system may harbor life at present or may have supported life in the past. The necessary conditions for supporting life in the Universe will also be discussed, and we will explore the link between science and science fiction related to our fascination with cosmic impacts as seen through the eye of the media and popular culture.

When it Hits the Fan: Business, Crisis Communication, and Social Media in a Risky World

Holly Littlefield, Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship

Effective crisis communication is increasingly important in a world of expanding technological dependence, sociopolitical instability, and daunting environmental challenges. Globalization and social media have complicated the problems faced in an ever-changing business environment. Crises can be broadcast around the world in minutes via social media, creating negative headlines for months. In addition, complex, world-wide problems like climate change, religious fundamentalism, cyber security, health care, population growth, urbanization, and terrorism require effective communications to lessen the consequences of a crisis on an organization’s activities, reputation, and stakeholders. We will examine a variety of current international and national case studies to examine what went wrong and consider how businesses can better prepare for, prevent, and respond to global crises. This seminar will help students employ social media and communications best practices to enhance their understanding of crisis management in a risky world.

Holly Littlefield has taught business and international communications in the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota for the past 15 years. She has also worked as an editor, columnist, textbook writer, and communications consultant for businesses and organizations such as Tata Consulting Services, Target Corporation, Cima Labs, Carlson Companies, and Guidant/Boston Scientific. She has received Carlson’s Honors Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award.
Photographing the University Community

Alex Lange, Biochemistry
Robert Roon, Biochemistry

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Smith Hall 111
East Bank, Minneapolis
14374

This seminar will provide students and faculty an opportunity to explore the art of photojournalism and/or documentary photography. Students and faculty will take photographs on the University campus or the surrounding neighborhoods and then each person will assemble their photographs into a coherent essay. The seminar will include social themes, and will have a strong writing component, as well as the obvious focus on photography.

Alex Lange received his PhD in nutritional biology from Cornell University. His research interests include diabetes, metabolite sensing and signaling, and metabolic enzyme regulation.

Robert Roon is a veteran of more than 30 years of university teaching. His eclectic interests range from neuroscience and nutrition to the origins of human life and Northwest Coast Native American art. He also sings in a men’s choral group and co-parents his grandson. He has been taking photographs for 50 years and in the past few years, he has averaged 20,000 photographs per year.

Get to Know Your Cup of Joe

Vanessa Pompei, Biology Teaching and Learning

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 004
1 credit
Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 432B
East Bank, Minneapolis
15656

Humans have been drinking coffee for centuries. It is a pick-me-up, a comfort drink, and it’s tasty (usually). With a coffee shop on practically every corner, it seems that coffee is our nation’s favorite beverage (I am drinking a cup of coffee as I write this seminar description). In this seminar, we will look at the natural history of the plants from which we get coffee beans, the history of coffee as a crop, the chemistry of coffee and caffeine, and some environmental issues associated with growing and producing coffee. We will follow the beans from plant to cup and discuss the biological, environmental, political, and sociological issues surrounding our beloved cup of Joe.

Vanessa Pompei is an assistant education specialist in biology in the College of Biological Sciences. She has a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a Master’s degree in conservation biology. She is interested in scientific literacy and teaching biology to non-scientists, as well as teaching biology majors.

Curing Cancer

Colin Campbell, Pharmacology

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 005
1 credit
Tuesday, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
Vincent Hall 211
East Bank, Minneapolis
15678

The objective of this seminar is to develop a basic understanding of the molecular origins of cancer, how it is currently treated, and the exciting efforts to develop new, more effective anti-cancer drugs. We will read and discuss two recent books, The Emperor of all Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Each class session will involve interactive discussions and a lively exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Colin Campbell is an associate professor of pharmacology. His doctoral and post-doctoral training occurred at Boston University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York. In addition to directing the graduate program in pharmacology, he directs a cancer biology research group and teaches undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

Genomics: Issues and Applications in Your Life

Perry Hackett, Genetics, Cell Biology and Development

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 006
1 credit
Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Nils Hasselmo Hall 4-101
East Bank, Minneapolis
15676

DNA and genomes are discussed in many contexts including medical science (diagnosing a disease and finding miracle cures), CSI, ethics, the modification of life at every level on the planet, etc. Students will discuss their thoughts on a variety of controversial issues both online and in class. In addition to learning about how our understanding of DNA and genomes has infiltrated every aspect of society, students will develop their process of thinking about complex problems by writing short opinions and evaluating those of others in class.

“Clickers” are used intensively in the course to determine how participants feel about certain positions on controversial subjects and to stimulate discussion of different points of view. All reading material will be furnished online, but students must buy their own clicker from the bookstore or elsewhere.

Perry Hackett is a Professor of genetics, cell biology and development. His career has focused on retooling genomes from bacteria to humans. He is especially interested in conveying to students the awesome possibilities of modern genetics and the importance of using data to find answers to the important questions that science raises.
It Takes More Than a Good Idea

Kelaine Haas, CBS
Student Services

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 007
1 credit
Thursday, 4:05 – 4:55 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 420A
East Bank, Minneapolis
22306

Automobiles, Pacemakers, iPods. Our world is shaped by great ideas. Humans are naturally creative beings, but our brains can constrain innovative thinking through fear, the urge to conform, and the tendency to interpret information in familiar ways. We will explore different perspectives of creativity and innovation through studying familiar examples and iconoclasts like Apple, Disney Pixar, and Henry Ford, who do, or did, things differently to achieve the impossible. As creative thinking is valued more and more in the classroom and in the workforce, understanding and fostering your own personal creativity is more important than ever. The exercises and discussions in this seminar will give you a jumpstart on overcoming personal and societal barriers to innovation and will stretch your definition and understanding of creativity.

Kelaine Haas received her undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, and in 2012 received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. She has taught introductory biology courses and the College of Biological Sciences honors thesis writing series. Her research interests include active teaching and learning, content retention, and scientific communication. When she isn’t thinking about how science and education intersect, you might find her knitting and enjoying a cup of coffee.

The Nature of Research: Is It For You?

David Marks, Plant Biology

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 008
3 credits
Monday, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Biological Sciences Center 12
Saint Paul
15677

There will be two parts to this seminar. In the first part, students will meet with researchers from all levels — from current undergraduates working in labs to faculty members, and we will discuss how and why each ended up in research. In the second part, students will participate in a research project funded by the National Science Foundation. Students will gain hands-on experience and use state-of-the-art techniques to address basic scientific questions concerning cell biology.

David Marks is an active researcher in the field of plant developmental biology. He uses the development of plant hairs, called trichomes, as a model system to study how cells in a multi-cellular organism become different from one another.

Experimental Evolution

Will Driscoll; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior
Michael Travisano; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 009
1 credit
Thursday, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m.
Ruttan Hall B30
Saint Paul
20789

Life originated over 4 billion years ago. Since that time, evolution has shaped living systems, generating tremendous biological diversity. Experimental evolution is a dynamic approach to investigating life, examining how and why biological systems change over evolutionary time. We will focus on how experimental evolution is done, what we have already learned, and the bright future for new research. Topics will include adaptive radiation, infectious diseases, the genetic basis of phenotypes, speciation, and the evolution of multicellularity. Readings will be primary literature and review articles, to be discussed every meeting. Toward the end of the semester, students will propose their own experimental evolution study based upon the readings, class discussions, and meetings with faculty.

Will Driscoll received his PhD in 2013 studying cooperation and conflict, investigating how collective behaviors can provide group benefits.

Mike Travisano studies the origin of biological complexity using experimental evolution with microbes. Their current research is funded by the John Templeton Foundation for understanding the origins of multicellularity.

Evidence-Based Living: Using Science to Inform Our Decisions and Opinions

Eli Swanson; Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Fall 2015
BIOL 1905, Section 010
2 credits
Monday, 4:05 – 5:45 p.m.
Molecular Cellular Biology 2-122
East Bank, Minneapolis
22316

Are vegetables and exercise really that healthy? Are multi-vitamins worth the money? Do video games give you Attention Deficit Disorder? Is global warming real? Our lives are inundated with flavor-of-the-month blogs and sensationalized science news. How do we know what to believe? The goal of this seminar is to see what real science has to say about these questions and many more. We will focus on a range of fascinating instructor- and student-chosen questions as case studies, with the beginning of the seminar geared toward accessing and understanding primary scientific literature. We will address questions that are relevant to our day-to-day lives, and try to understand when it may be appropriate to form strong conclusions, perhaps applying what we read to our lives, and when caution should be used. A major goal of the seminar will also be to understand how people make decisions in the context of prior belief, anecdotes, and scientific evidence.

Eli Swanson is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. His current research focuses on hormones and evolution in butterflies, although he has also worked with frogs and spotted hyenas. He loves reading extensively, especially about science, and telling everyone about what he reads, whether they want to hear it or not.
Stem Cells

Yasuhiko Kawakami; Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development

Fall 2015
Biol 1905, Section 011
1 credit
Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 432A
East Bank, Minneapolis
22777

Stem cells are one of the rapidly growing topics in biology. Research into stem cells involves a wide range of interests, including basic biology, regeneration, clinical applications, as well as ethics. In this seminar, we will learn about and discuss the general features of stem cells: what they are, what scientists do with them, what stem cell therapies are available, and how they might be used in the future. We will also learn the difference between embryonic stem cells, which exist only in laboratory cultures, and tissue-specific stem cells, which exist in our bodies. By the end of this seminar, you will have a deeper insight into stem cells.

Yasuhiko Kawakami is a faculty member in the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development, and the Stem Cell Institute. He is interested in understanding how stem cells or progenitor cells contribute to development and regeneration of the animal body.

How To Think About Weird Things

Anna Mosser, Biology Teaching and Learning

Fall 2015
Biol 1905, Section 012
1 credit
Thursday, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 420A
East Bank, Minneapolis
23905

Have you ever wondered if there is any truth to extrasensory perception (ESP), alien abduction, or spontaneous human combustion? Well, let's think about it! In this seminar, we will explore the process of thinking critically and logically about wild and wonderful topics, guided by the book How To Think About Weird Things by T. Schick and L. Vaughn. We'll learn about the elements of a good argument and reliable science and apply these to the weirdest topics we can imagine. The results may surprise you. You will also build skills that will help you through your college courses and beyond.

Anna Mosser is a teaching assistant professor in the Department of Biology Teaching and Learning. She teaches introductory biology courses and her research background is in biology education and behavioral ecology (lions, chimpanzees, and caribou, oh my). She's always enjoyed thinking about the weirder things in life and often finds herself saying “I want to believe, but …”

Ways of Knowing and Science

Craig Hassel, Food Science and Nutrition, and Karl Lorenz, CFANS Student Services

Fall 2015
CFAN 1902, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
3 credits
Thursday, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Ruttan Hall B26
Saint Paul 19765

Every human society has developed its own knowledge of food and health relationships, but until very recently, researchers at large universities have paid little attention to this knowledge. Most scientists do not accept indigenous, ancestral, or ancient knowledge systems as valid. When such knowledge is considered, it is studied through the lens of “science” to determine its legitimacy. Diverse food practices and understandings may be acknowledged as cultural artifacts, but are seldom seen by scientists as legitimate on their own merit. We will attempt to take a more culturally competent “inside look” at diverse ways of knowing. We will explore indigenous knowledges, Ayurveda, Chinese Medicine, Western/biomedical, and African American perspectives. Each of these “ways of knowing” is grounded in distinct and divergent ancestral and cultural orientations.

Craig Hassel works on food and health issues in partnership with communities who bring knowledge that is incongruent with western/scientific perspectives.

Karl Lorenz leads the work of the Diversity Catalyst Team and is responsible for implementing college-wide diversity initiatives.

Blown Away: Americans and the Dust Bowl

Lauren McCarthy, CFANS Student Services

Fall 2015
CFAN 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Peters Hall 145
East Bank, Minneapolis 33857

Is another Dust Bowl coming to the United States? At the beginning of the 20th century, homesteaders plowed the prairie of the Great Plains for farming and ranching, but when a drought began in 1930, great windstorms and parched land became a destructive combination. We will explore the Dust Bowl through radio and music recordings, documentaries, novels, photography, and historical resources to understand the causes and effects of this dramatic environmental disaster. Guest speakers will teach us soil science and what the Dust Bowl meant for the landscape of the Great Plains and for American agriculture. Due to current agricultural practices and climate change, some researchers and observers think we may be headed for another Dust Bowl. What will you predict? How can the United States avoid a repeat of history?

Lauren McCarthy enjoys delving into U.S. history for fun, while for work she advises students in the Sustainability Studies minor and manages scholarships for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. She has studied political science, Latin American history and society, and multicultural undergraduate education.
DNA

Michael Bowser, Chemistry

Fall 2015
CHEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:10 p.m.
Bruininks Hall
420A
East Bank, Minneapolis
19966

DNA is found in every known living organism, yet is the very molecule responsible for the incredible diversity found in life. Considering the central role DNA plays in biology, its impact on science, industry, and society is not surprising. What may be surprising is that it is only in the past several decades that technological advances have allowed us to begin to fully realize the potential of genomics research.

As with many advances in science, this quickly growing field has raised a number of social and ethical challenges. This seminar will examine a range of DNA-related topics considering scientific, historical, social, and ethical perspectives. Topics will include the discovery of DNA, DNA in forensics, technology of DNA sequencing, genetically modified foods, and personal genomic testing.

Michael Bowser has been a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of Minnesota since 2000. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses, including those related to analytical chemistry and biotechnology. His research interests include discovery of functional DNA molecules, neurochemical analysis, and microfluidics.

Science in the News

George Barany, Chemistry

Fall 2015
CHEM 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Friday, 2:30 – 4:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 111
East Bank, Minneapolis
19967

This eclectic seminar offers freewheeling discussions and analysis about modern scientific developments and historical contexts, with the point of departure being the "Science Times" section of The New York Times, which is published every Tuesday.

George Barany is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor who has been on the chemistry faculty of the University of Minnesota since 1980. Previously, he was mentored at The Rockefeller University by Nobel laureate R.B Merrifield. Barany has well over 350 scientific papers, reviews, and patents on his research in organic chemistry and chemical biology, and has also published several New York Times crossword puzzles.

The End of the World as We Know It

Christy Haynes, Chemistry

Fall 2015
CHEM 1905, Section 003
2 credits
Tuesday, 1:25 – 3:05 p.m.
Civil Engineering 214
East Bank, Minneapolis
19968

Dystopian literature focuses on controlled or repressed projections of society, often enabled by either technological development or catastrophe. In this seminar, we will read several dystopian novels and delve into the scientific concepts introduced, debate social implications, and reflect on the works in both written and oral forms.

Christy Haynes has been a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of Minnesota since 2005. She earned her PhD at Northwestern University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill before coming to the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include single cell measurements relevant in immunology and toxicology as well as biomaterials development.

Nanotechnology to Nanomedicine: What Does it All Mean?

Theresa Reineke, Chemistry

Fall 2015
CHEM 1905, Section 004
2 credits
Tuesday, 1:25 – 4:10 p.m.
Blegen Hall 435
East Bank, Minneapolis
19969

Nanotechnology surrounds us in our everyday lives from our clothes, personal hygiene products, and now even our medicines. This seminar will be devoted to understanding what nanotechnology and nanomaterials mean for our ever-changing world. We will explore how researchers create nanomaterials and how they are tailored and studied at the nanoscale to provide us with their extraordinary properties and characteristics. The seminar will explore both scientific and nonscientific aspects of nanotechnology and will include guest lectures, movies, and exploration of popular products impacted by nanomaterials.

Theresa Reineke joined the chemistry faculty at the University of Minnesota in 2011 and since 2002 she has also been on the faculty of both the University of Cincinnati and Virginia Tech. She earned her PhD at the University of Michigan and did a postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology. She has taught graduate and undergraduate courses, including introductory chemistry. Her research interests include creating new synthetic nanomaterials and nanomedicines for disease diagnosis and treatment.
Trust Me, I'm a Scientist

Aaron Massari, Chemistry

Fall 2015
CHEM 1905, Section 005
2 credits
Wednesday, 3:35 – 5:15 p.m.
Smith Hall 111
East Bank, Minneapolis
35261

This seminar will focus on the relationship between science and modern society in the United States. We will discuss the perceptions of science and scientists in the eyes of citizens, the media, and politicians. Individuals with scientific and non-scientific backgrounds are encouraged to join the course.

Aaron Massari has been a member of the chemistry faculty since 2006. He earned his PhD from Northwestern University. Since arriving at the University of Minnesota, he has taught a broad range of chemistry courses from the introductory undergraduate to advanced graduate levels.

Chicana/o-Latina/o: History, Culture, and Identity

Edén Torres, Chicano-Latino Studies

Fall 2015
CHIC 1902, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
3 credits
TuTh, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Nicholson Hall 355
East Bank, Minneapolis
24281

It might be argued that everyone in today’s world struggles to understand and articulate multiple cultural identities. For Chicana/o and Latina/o people whose ethnicity or race separates them from the dominant culture, identities must be formed without adequate representation in popular culture. Instead, we must look past mainstream depictions and into history, home cultures and languages, and ethnic literature and film, in order to understand, express and/or construct an affirmative vision of what it means to be a Chicana/o or Latina/o in a contemporary context.

Edén Torres is a Mexican American who makes her home in two places: the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas and Minnesota. Before going to college, she thought she knew what it meant to be Mexican American, and how she fit (or didn’t fit) into the history and culture of the United States. That understanding was challenged, solidified, broadened, and changed as she began to explore the meaning of “Chicana” and “Latina” through the eyes of writers, historians, artists, activists, filmmakers, and theorists. She’s discovered that the definition of who she is in terms of ethnicity, race, and class is often socially constructed and an ever-shifting, politically-charged process.

Children and Other Talking Animals: Anthropomorphic Tales and the Hope for Humanity’s Future

Marek Oziewicz, Curriculum and Instruction

Fall 2015
CI 1908W, Section 002
LE: Civic Life and Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Peik Hall 25
East Bank, Minneapolis
33958

Humans and animals have coexisted since the dawn of time. For millennia, animals were seen as our fellow-creatures: our ancestors, our guides, our dangerous equals. Gradually, humanity exiled itself from nature in order to rule it. The abandonment of kinship with animals brought about the rise of speciesism: a view that denies personhood and voice to the nonhuman, whose offshoots have been rankism, racism, and xenophobia among humans. Speciesism legitimized instrumental relationships with the nonhuman—including the planet—that has led us to a point where our own survival is at stake. The only humans to talk with animals have been children, and their reaching out to animals has long been taken as a sign of immaturity. This seminar will examine a tradition of anthropomorphic tales, from ancient myths to modern novels and films, as humanity’s memory of our kinship with animals. Adopting the lens of environmental ethics, we will explore connections between children and talking animals and discuss their implications for the environmentally-threatened global world.

Marek Oziewicz is the Marguerite Henry Professor of Children’s and Young Adult Literature at the University of Minnesota. He discovered books as a child and was never the same afterward. A compulsive reader and award-winning scholar specializing in speculative fiction and global literature, Marek believes in the power of stories to nurture human potential and understanding across cultures.
Homer’s Odyssey and Early Greek Society

S. Douglas Olson, Classical and Near Eastern Studies

Fall 2015
CNES 1903, Section 001
LE: Civic Life and Ethics
3 credits
MW, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Nicholson Hall
East Bank, Minneapolis
26016

Homer’s Odyssey is the story of a man who returns from war to find a world much different from the one he left ten years earlier—and one that seems to have no place for him. On his way home, he lies to some, robs and murders others and—arguably through his own negligence—loses all his men. Once back on his native island of Ithaca, he re-establishes his authority as local strong-man through a mass killing of rivals. He is nonetheless emphatically a “hero” and the moral and political center of the story: what Odysseus does is (in the storyteller’s eyes, and those of most readers ever since) right and just. This seminar will use a close reading of the Odyssey, and a selection of modern reactions to it, to ask what sort of political and social world the poem imagines; how it formulates and discusses power and justice; and how it encourages its audience to accept judgments about human behavior and “what is right” that it may, upon reflection, find horrifying.

Ever since he was a boy growing up in small-town Illinois, S. Douglas Olson has been interested in the world’s oldest books and the languages in which they are written. Most of his research as a Distinguished McKnight University Professor involves ancient manuscripts and lost Greek plays and poems. He still believes that Homer’s Odyssey is among the richest and most exciting stories ever told. Don’t worry if you’ve read the book before; it’s going to be different this time.

Media Emotions

Mari Pajala, Communication Studies

Fall 2015
COMM 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 - 11:00 a.m.
Bruininks 420B
East Bank, Minneapolis
35467

How do television programs make us laugh or cry? Why are people so annoyed by participants in reality television shows? How are emotions mobilized to unite and divide people, to create boundaries between “us” and “them”? How do social media platforms attempt to turn our emotional responses into financial profit? In this seminar, we will learn to think critically about the politics of emotion in media culture. Emotions are not just about entertainment. Rather, emotions can both uphold and question cultural hierarchies of, for example, gender, class, ethnicity, and nationality. We will analyze the techniques different media genres use to move viewers, learn about the cultural meanings of specific emotions such as shame and love and become familiar with a variety of methodological approaches to the study of emotions and media.

When Mari Pajala started studying media at university, her high school friends suspected that her course work consisted merely of watching films and television shows. While that was far from the truth, she did find that learning about the history, aesthetics, and politics of media also enabled her to find new kinds of enjoyment in popular media through analysis and critique. Learning to look at media culture with an analytical gaze did not destroy enjoyment in popular media, but added to its interest.

International and Cross-Cultural Studies of Childhood

Michael Maratsos, Child Development

Fall 2015
CPSY 1904, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
Tuesday, 10:10 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.
Child Development 105
East Bank, Minneapolis
18573

In this seminar, students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that comprise human childhood across a wide variety of geographical, economic, and cultural circumstances. Students will learn about the basic course of childhood and the development into adult roles in human societies ranging from modern states through technologically primitive cultures. This seminar seeks to develop an appreciation of the variety of human childhoods, and how the changes that humans themselves make can affect this at both familial and societal levels. At a broader level, this seminar seeks to help students examine what it means to develop as a human being, and the ethical issues humans face in guiding children’s development.

Michael Maratsos’ interests include problems in the broader history and theory of childhood. In particular, he is interested in the general analysis of how economic, technological, and other societal conditions affect the practices and personalities of children and adults, and the general nature of childhood.
The Wire and Breaking Bad: Six Drugs and Community

Robin Brown, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature

Fall 2015
CSCL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
35052

I can’t imagine where you’ve been hiding if you haven’t seen the “This is your brain on drugs” PSA (or the hundreds of YouTube satires of it). And yes, drugs can alter brains. But I can’t imagine where you’ve been hiding if you haven’t seen the “This is your brain on drugs” PSA (or the hundreds of YouTube satires of it). And yes, drugs can alter brains. But popular representations of drugs—like Walter White watching Jane die while deep into heroin, or Jimmy McNulty conducting his own “war on drugs”—alter society. So do laws, direct-to-consumer ads, song lyrics, psychopharmacology, AA meetings, drug-education classes, and lots more.

It’s never simple. It’s all interconnected. In this seminar, we’ll explore how drugs and community create each other. When we’re finished, we’ll know a lot about the chemistry, medicine, economics, history, regulation, marketing, representations, and myths around “drugs.” And we’ll understand the ways cultural studies explores any complex social phenomenon. We’ll make knowledge together. We’ll discover things none of us—we included—expected at the start. And we’ll think of ways we might change critical parts of our worlds. My class has two rules: (1) get real, and (2) don’t bore your friends. Word.

Robin Brown set out to be a physician, gaining degrees in Chemistry and English before deciding on teaching. Forty-eight years later, he hasn’t changed his mind, though after a doctorate in linguistic anthropology and deep medical-school work in neuroscience, he isn’t exactly a chemist, an English teacher, or an anthropologist. Robin does cultural studies, where everything is inter-disciplinary, engaged in imagining a better world. He’d say you can’t understand Adderal without understanding patents, WW II bombing runs, joint-ventures, and boring final exams. Because you can’t. Robin works on connections—ones in our personal and communal lives.

Dangerous Women

Maggie Hennefeld, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature

Fall 2015
CSCL 1907W, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States, Writing Intensive
3 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

Why does female sexuality so often become deadly and dangerous in Hollywood movies? From Double Indemnity, to Death Becomes Her, to Gone Girl, American cinema has been obsessed with punishing and demonizing women for being too seductive. This seminar will look at the trope of the dangerous woman in its cultural, historical, and global contexts. We will watch everything from interwar German silent films, to post-war American film noir, to contemporary supernatural television in order to understand why the dangerous (and often deadly) woman will not die as a convention of media storytelling.

Maggie Hennefeld watched her first Joan Crawford film in 2001, and has seen many more Crawford films since. She is fascinated with the question of why women wearing shoulder pads in old Hollywood movies always become entangled in corruption and murder. Fashions have changed (dangerous women no longer always wear shoulder pads), but we are still suspicious of women based on their physical appearance, which unconsciously informs how we watch movies and TV. But why is this the case? Maggie hopes that you will join her to figure out the mystifying but persistent connections between female sexuality, mortal danger, and narrative media.

Homelessness: Who, What, What to Do?

Marilyn Bruin, Housing Studies

Fall 2015
DES 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Monday, 3:35 – 6:05 p.m.
Rapson Hall 109
East Bank, Minneapolis
35148

Housing directly affects physical, mental, and spiritual well-being; as well as access to education, employment, human service, and social networks. We will explore issues of homelessness, including how it is defined and perceived, causes of homelessness, the long- and short-term effects on individuals and families, and the consequences of homelessness at the community level. We will explore philosophies and programs that contribute to those disparities, and examine public policy at the local and national levels as it both creates and minimizes experiences of homelessness. In this seminar, students will learn to think critically and ethically about homelessness through reading, discussion, and engagement with local homeless programs. Over the semester, we will discuss and evaluate research-based information to information presented in the media. This seminar is designed to teach new students skills in locating and interpreting information. Students will also develop skills in listening, developing cogent arguments, and the peer review process.

Marilyn Bruin is a faculty member in housing studies in the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel. Her areas of expertise include affordable housing, housing policy, low-income neighborhoods, residential satisfaction, and family housing decisions.
My Twin Cities: Urban Design and Public Space

Paul Bauknight; Design, Housing, and Apparel

Fall 2015
DES 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 5:25 p.m.
Rapson Hall 109
East Bank, Minneapolis
35161

Paul Bauknight is president and CEO of a minority-owned urban development, planning, and architectural firm. He specializes in the development of urban community-based projects. His work includes the design of the Minneapolis Urban League Headquarters, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Lucey Laney School, Seed Academy, and Heritage Park, all in North Minneapolis. He has been a community activist on the Minneapolis north side for 20 years.

Building Vision

Monica Fogg, Graphic Design

Fall 2015
DES 1905, Section 003
3 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Rapson Hall 109
East Bank, Minneapolis
35161

The desire to succeed and do well can sometimes circumvent one's willingness to embrace challenge in order to safely achieve an outcome (not fail). This seminar aims to break down barriers and fears while developing processes toward new ways of seeing. It builds and expands connections to a larger world of ideas and disciplines. Through weekly exercises in visual story-telling, participants will sharpen their ability to see (the real world as well as the imagined). Projects are constructed to challenge perceived personal limitations in ideation and process and to build a way of communicating in a visual manner. This seminar is for individuals interested in expanding personal ways of seeing, thinking and doing. Individuals interested in developing a personal process in the evolution of ideas.

Monica Fogg is an artist (watercolor, encaustic, acrylic, woodcut, and lithography) and designer/fabricator. She has taught courses in watercolor, drawing, painting, color theory, design, visual presentation, and art history. Her work is in collections throughout the United States.

Printing for Designers

James Boyd Brent; Design, Housing, and Apparel

Fall 2015
DES 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
2 credits
Thursday, 11:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
McNeal Hall B9
Saint Paul
18327

In this seminar, we will look at how designers print, why they might choose one particular method of printing rather than another, and the potential effects of this choice on their creativity. The "how" component will be addressed mainly by actually making prints. The "why" component will be addressed mainly by researching aspects of printing—and this part will also include writing. The creative production part of the course will be used, including paper and fabric. The research component will focus on how designers reproduce ideas in print, and include looking at how contemporary printing technologies are changing, and the effect these changes are having on creative production in the design world, and will include a brief overview of the history of printing.

James Boyd Brent is a practicing printmaker who has received multiple awards for his work. He is an academic satire written in the form of letters of recommendation. Her short stories and essays have appeared in various publications. She has been a faculty member in the Creative Writing Program and the Department of English for 17 years.

I Don't Want to Grow Up: Coming of Age in Fiction

Julie Schumacher, English

Fall 2015
ENGL 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Ford Hall 170
East Bank, Minneapolis
31386

In this literature and discussion seminar, we'll read novels and short stories that portray the often uneasy shift from the teen years to adulthood in a wide range of books, from Jane Austen to the American western and graphic/comic novels to dystopian fiction. Students will debate, analyze, and occasionally *dramatize* the coming-of-age experiences about which we will read. What does adulthood consist of? In what ways have the definitions of youth and maturity changed over time, depending on historical and cultural context? This is a "Writing Intensive" course: Students will produce imaginative, coherent, thought-provoking and grammatically correct essays; revision will be an integral part of the class.

Julie Schumacher is a novelist who has written multiple works for young adults and adults; her most recent book is Dear Committee Members, an academic satire written in the form of letters of recommendation. Her short stories and essays have appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times, and other publications. She has been a faculty member in the Creative Writing Program and the Department of English for 17 years.
Missy Elliot, Eminem, Iggy Azalea: Hip-Hop as Academic Inquiry

Geoffrey Sirc, English

Fall 2015
ENGL 1910W, Section 002
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
MW, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Rapson Hall 13
East Bank, Minneapolis
31387

This seminar will focus on hip-hop, an exceptionally fruitful topic for academic inquiry in the way it offers a variety of research “portals”: not just the aesthetics of beats and rhymes, but issues of race, gender, sexuality, economics, marketing, fashion, violence, media representation, and a host of others. We’ll conduct our inquiry through reading, course discussion, and writing. Much of our writing will be research-based, and so we’ll learn about how research is undertaken in the academy, how questions are framed, and how sources to investigate those questions are found and used (we’ll learn about the electronic tools for research at the University as well). The goal of this seminar is for students to work steadily through our common course reading and writing – as well as sources you find for your own research – to produce a solid research paper, one that represents an exciting academic investigation into a compelling aspect of contemporary culture.

Geoffrey Sirc finds American popular culture fascinating. He’s published scholarly articles on punk rock, the Sex Pistols, Kurt Cobain, and hip-hop. If you look deep enough at a pop song, he swears you can see the whole sociocultural history of our country in it. He picked up a copy of Rappers Delight in 1979, immediately figured out the lyrics and brought it to his American Literature class. His teaching and research have never been the same.

Geology of Minnesota

Harvey Thorleifson, Minnesota Geological Survey

Fall 2015
ESCI 1901, Section 001
LE: The Environment
3 credits
Wednesday, 10:10 – 11:50 a.m.
Vincent Hall 113
East Bank, Minneapolis
17129

Understanding interactions between the Minnesota environment, natural resources, ecosystems, and human activity requires a grasp of the structure and history of our landscape, from the Mississippi River basin to the Red River Valley and the Lake Superior basin. Underlying and shaping this landscape are ancient rocks in the north and in the deep subsurface, younger limestone and sandstone in the south, and the deposits of the Ice Age that our soils have formed in. These deposits host our principal drinking water sources, so we must understand them in order to protect and wisely use our water. Reading assignments will be papers, brochures, and web content. The first full-day field trip will examine the water resources of our rivers and lakes, and a second full-day field trip will examine how geology controls our well water supply.

Harvey Thorleifson is the state geologist of Minnesota. In this capacity, he is director of the Minnesota Geological Survey, which was established by Legislative Act on March 1, 1872, to ensure the availability of the regional geological, geophysical, and geochemical information that the people of the state require to ensure wise stewardship of their water, land, and mineral resources, and to thus realize societal benefits related to economic prosperity, public health, natural hazards, as well as appreciation and preservation of our natural heritage. He previously carried out research on gold, diamonds, offshore mapping, climate change, shoreline erosion, and water supply across much of Canada.

Polar Regions

Christian Teyssier, Department of Earth Sciences

Fall 2015
ESCI 1901, Section 002
LE: The Environment
3 credits
Wednesday, 10:10 – 11:50 a.m.
Pillsbury Hall 121
East Bank, Minneapolis
25993

With a focus on the Earth’s polar regions, this freshman seminar addresses general principles of Earth science, climate change on various temporal scales, and the relation among human activities, climate, and the environment. Reading and presentation assignments develop research skills, writing proficiency, oral expression, logical reasoning, and critical analysis. Emphasis is placed on current debates, particularly regarding global climate change, and on the resolution of environmental issues involving a combination of technological advances, science policy, and individual responsibility. Work for this course involves synthesis of datasets, writing of essays based on journal and magazine articles, and group presentations. The science and policy part of the course is balanced by artists’ and explorers’ accounts of the beauty and awesomeness of polar landscapes. Three credits are justified by the amount of work required to come prepared for seminar, upon which the success of the course rests, and the time spent on personal research and writing assignments, as well as the preparation of group presentations.

Professor Christian Teyssier received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Montpellier, France, and a doctoral degree from Monash University, Australia. His research specialty is tectonics (motion of tectonic plates and evolution of mountain belts). He has conducted field expeditions in various regions of the world, including the Arctic region and Antarctica.
Tsunamis

David Yuen, Department of Earth Sciences

Fall 2015
ESCI 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 1:25 – 3:20 p.m.
Pillsbury Hall 121
East Bank, Minneapolis
25060

This seminar will explore how ocean waves interact with the sea-coast and the potential damage on society, such as tsunamis and hurricanes. We will learn about the fundamentals of water waves and atmospheric disturbances causing storms. Reading material will be taken from contemporary sources.

David Yuen is a computational geophysicist, who has worked on a variety of problems in the earth sciences, such as mantle convection and subduction zones. In the past decade he has delved into tsunami

Alien Invasions: Impacts and Control of Exotic Species

Raymond Newman; Fisheries Wildlife, Conservation Biology

Fall 2015
ESPM 1905, Section 001
1 credit
Wednesday, 1:55 – 2:45 p.m.
Saint Paul

Non-indigenous (exotic) species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, killer bees, and kudzu are becoming increasingly common worldwide and are considered one of the major causes of loss of biodiversity. What are these species? From where do they come and how do they get there? What allows some species to invade and become a nuisance? How can we control them? This seminar will introduce students to the topic via reading, presentation, and discussion of selected primary literature. In addition to learning more about the topic, students will learn how to read, critique, and summarize primary literature and gain insight into how science is conducted and translated into management actions.

Ray Newman is a professor of fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology. He has been investigating impacts and control of exotic species for over 20 years. He interacts regularly with managers and the public on invasive species issues and leads a colloquium on exotic plants and animals.

Confessions: True or Otherwise

Mary Franklin-Brown, French and Italian

Fall 2015
FREN 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
MW, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Folwell Hall 108
East Bank, Minneapolis
34050

True confessions are rarer than you might think. Not because people don’t intend to tell the truth (although there are plenty of shady characters who don’t), but because a story changes in the process of being told; we have to use words, and often they fail to capture the lived experience while creating subtly different experiences of their own. The paradigms that we have been taught for understanding the world filter our experience; people from different cultural contexts produce radically different narratives. So the narration of the self changes from place to place, religion to religion, language to language, and century to century. This seminar will investigate the practices of self-narration, from Antiquity to the modern period.

Mary Franklin-Brown enjoys discussing with students how books written in other times and places can be uncannily familiar or challenge us with their strangeness. She grew up in Montana and then, in the pursuit of “something completely different,” lived in New Hampshire, Berkeley, and Paris, before moving to the Twin Cities. A bookworm, she understands Hermione Granger’s observation that the strongest love potion in the world would smell like “freshly mown grass and new parchment.” But she thinks that old parchment smells even better, so she specializes in medieval literature.
Antioxidants: How Do They Protect Your Food and Your Body?

A. Saari Csallany, Food Science and Nutrition

This seminar will review how changes take place in food and biological systems in the absence and presence of antioxidants. We will concentrate on what antioxidants are, how they act, and how they protect food from deterioration and the body from deteriorative changes.

A. Saari Csallany has a long history in the research related to the function of antioxidants, both in food and in biological systems. Her research focuses include food chemistry; free radical induced oxidative degradation of fatty acids, edible oils, and other lipids; isolation and identification of degradation products with special reference to toxic compounds; and protective effects of antioxidants in lipid peroxidation and degradation.

Civil Disobedience: From Gandhi to Ferguson

Ajay Skaria, History

What sets civil disobedience apart from other forms of political resistance is its peculiarly democratic nature. To begin with, its practitioners adhere to the principle of respecting the humanity and equality of those whom they fight against. It is democratic in the sense that Gandhi identifies—though it requires immense self-discipline, it is nevertheless a universally available weapon. This seminar explores the writings of some of the most famous theorists, critics, and practitioners of civil disobedience (Thoreau, Pankhurst, Tolstoy, Gandhi, King, Malcolm X, Lewis, Habermas, and Rawls). We will consider questions such as when do civil disobedience movements succeed? What would success be for such movements, which are so crucially also about self-transformation? When does civil disobedience reinforce existing injustices, or participate in more subtle—and therefore more violent—forms of violence? When figures like Gandhi or King frame their civil disobedience in religious terms, does this make their politics fundamentally different from secular figures like Mandela?

Ajay Skaria received his Master's degree from Maharaja Sayajirao University, India, and his PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge. He has been a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and has taught previously at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *Hybrid Histories: Forests, Frontiers and Wildness in Western India* (Oxford University Press, 1999), and one of the co-editors of *Subaltern Studies Vol. XII*. He has recently completed *Immeasurable Equality: Gandhi and the Gift of Religion* (University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming).

Remediating the Holocaust

Leslie Morris; German, Scandinavian, and Dutch

This seminar will introduce students to the debates about the representation of the Holocaust and the complex interplay between documentary and fictional accounts. We will explore literary and film texts that challenge and “remediate” the limits of Holocaust representation. Writers/filmmakers will include Heimrad Bäcker, Rob Fitterman, Art Spiegelman, Georges Perec, W.G. Sebald, Peter Weiss, Charles Reznikoff, Alan Sondheim, Primo Levi, Edgar Hilsenrath, Paul Celan, Harun Farocki, and Claude Lanzmann.

Leslie Morris is associate professor of German. She has written extensively about German-Jewish memory and the politics and aesthetics of Holocaust memory and memorialization.
Cyborgs, Monsters, and Aliens

Aren Aizura; Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

Fall 2015
GWSS 1905
3 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

Mainstream science fiction shows tell familiar stories about heroes saving the earth from alien or cyborg invasion. Or the hero ventures heroically into space, “where no man has gone before.” But other strands of science fiction imagine differently: speculating about wildly altered futures where monstrosity and otherness are powerful and transformative. In this seminar we will read science fiction and fantasy novels and short stories, watch film and TV shows, and explore the world of fan-made zines and videos. We will use all of these to explore bodies, technology, difference, and social conflict. How do gender, race, and sexuality play out in dreams of the future? How do dreams of technological embodiment reflect contemporary struggles about self-determination and social power? How are science fiction tropes like planetary invasion and genocide shaped by global histories of racism and empire, resistance and liberation?

Aren Aizura teaches courses on sexuality, gender, and embodiment; cultural flows of globalization; and how science and technology inform politics, culture, and life. He is especially interested in exploring how ideas of gendered and racial normality, weirdness, and monstrosity are informed by power. Originally from Melbourne, Australia, he joined Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota in 2014. He has been consuming science fiction since childhood and happily identifies as a geek.

How to Make a Perfect World

Howard Louthan, History

Fall 2015
HIST 1905, Section 002
3 credits
MW, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Blegen Hall 105
East Bank, Minneapolis
33997

From the beginning of recorded history, human beings have sought to create perfect societies. The ancient Greeks were among the first to express these ideas in concrete form with Plato’s Republic, but the ancient world saw many other schemes and ideas to improve human communities. Sacred writings such as the Bible also included visions of societies free from imperfection and human failings. This seminar will offer a broad survey of these dreams of perfect worlds from antiquity to the present day. We will begin with the Greeks and Plato before turning to Christian sources from this early period. Chronologically, our focus will then jump to the Renaissance period, which was the true golden age of utopian literature. In the final section of the seminar we will move to the modern period and look at attempts to create perfect societies in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will conclude by examining the dark side of the “perfect society” and see how dystopian nightmares can parallel the benign dreams of utopian thinkers.

Howard Louthan is professor of history and director of the Center for Austrian Studies. He specializes in the history of Renaissance and Reformation Europe. He has broad interdisciplinary teaching interests and enjoys offering courses that encourage students to reflect on the past as they consider challenges and problems facing contemporary society. Before joining the faculty at the University of Minnesota, he taught at the University of Florida where he was the 2014 Honors Professor of the Year.

A History of the Drug Wars in the Americas

Patrick McNamara, History

Fall 2015
HIST 1905, Section 003
3 credits
Monday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey Center 15
West Bank, Minneapolis
33998

When and how did some drugs become a social problem? Why is cocaine illegal in the United States? Who is winning the war on drugs? These questions and others are at the heart of this seminar. We will examine the longer history of controlled substances throughout the Western Hemisphere, focusing in particular on the scope of the so-called war on drugs of the past 30 years. We will read books, articles, and websites dealing with illegal drugs, and we will watch documentary and full-length films dealing with drug use, drug markets, and the violence surrounding drugs. Our study of the past is intended to help us understand the present context and to allow us to imagine a different future regarding these complicated issues.

Patrick McNamara has been interested in drugs for a long time. While that interest has been primarily academic, he remains fascinated by the longer, hemispheric history of drug use by indigenous populations for ceremonies, the export and consumption of illegal drugs, and the effects of the “drug war” on populations throughout the Americas. As a historian of Mexico, he has watched a peaceful country fall into the abyss of unrestrained violence and destruction for the sake of a consumer drug market in the United States. No drug use will be allowed in this seminar—except caffeine.

Crusade vs. Jihad: Muslim-Christian Relations in Historical Perspective

Giancarlo Casale, History

Fall 2015
HIST 1905, Section 004
3 credits
Tuesday, 1:15 – 3:35 p.m.
Carson School of Management 1-136
West Bank, Minneapolis
33999

Is there a really a “clash of civilizations” between Islam and the West today? Has there ever been? In this seminar we will try to answer this question, by examining the historical development of relations between Christianity and Islam, and focusing specifically on the contrast between perceptions today and the realities of the more distant past. We will address themes such as holy war, conquest, and slavery, but also peaceful religious conversion, cultural interaction, and shared concepts of faith and tolerance.

Giancarlo Casale is a specialist in the history of the Ottoman Empire, or “the O.E.” as his students prefer to call it. He spent years working on a book about Ottoman explorers in the Indian Ocean during the 16th-century “Age of Discovery,” and has written on the history of mapmaking, trade, and piracy in the early modern world. He teaches courses on Ottoman history, Islam, and world civilizations. Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, he is fluent in Turkish, having lived in Istanbul for several years. He has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, and sometimes—when he is in a really good mood—brings groups of students with him.
**Growing Food and Building Community: Urban Farming in the Twin Cities**

Mary Rogers, Horticultural Science

Our metropolis has a vibrant local food movement. The cultivation of nourishing food in our urban centers helps bridge the gap in the food system, empowers youth, connects us to our neighbors, and makes our city safer. Neighborhood community gardens, urban farm businesses, and educational gardens and parks are all part of the urban food movement. Students will explore urban farms and gardens within the Twin Cities metro, and learn about the complex environmental, political, and social issues inherent in producing food in urban areas. We will discuss basic horticulture and production practices, soil health and environmental quality issues, and public policy and regulations of urban farms. Students will learn to recognize social differences of race, ethnicity, and class; improve intercultural competence skills as a foundation for positive cross-cultural relationships; and gain an awareness of how urban agriculture can be a force for change.

**Mary Rogers** investigates sustainable strategies to improve production of horticultural crops using season extension techniques, fertility management, plant defensive compounds, and ecological pest management. She teaches classes in organic horticulture and vegetable production, and has a background developing programming and training for beginning farmers.

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**The Symbolic Meaning of Money and Property**

Kenneth Doyle, Journalism and Mass Communication

Do you ever wonder why some people run away from money, while most people chase after it? Or why some people who could afford better buy their clothes at Savers while others (who maybe can’t afford it) prefer to shop at Gucci or Armani? Or why husbands and wives, and parents and children, so seldom agree on what to do with money? Understanding the symbolic messages money sends to people is the key to learning how to answer these questions. Whether your interest is business, liberal arts, or a particular profession, this seminar ought to be interesting and useful for you.

There’s truth to the rumor that **Kenneth Doyle** is a maverick. A former monk, retired financial planner and investment advisor, and a licensed financial psychologist, he comes at the meanings of money from many angles. Especially interested in cross-cultural meanings of money, he is president of the Minnesota chapter of the Circumnavigators Club (limited to people who have circumnavigated the globe), and has visited 55 countries.
The Art and Science of Persuasion
Kenneth Doyle, Journalism and Mass Communication

Fall 2015
JOUR 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Murphy Hall 214
East Bank, Minneapolis
35053

Seven days a week everywhere in the world, people are busily trying to persuade other people. Students want their professors to accept late work. Professors want students to throw themselves into their coursework. Advertisers want consumers to buy their products. PR practitioners want people to think more highly of their clients. Newspaper editorialists want readers to change their minds. Defense lawyers want juries to acquit their clients. And politicians want constituents to vote for them.

Some of these people are very effective persuaders, others less so. In this seminar, we’ll search out the best techniques for persuading different kinds of people to do various things. We’ll study really good textbooks. We’ll meet top-quality professional persuaders. We’ll search out real-life instances of good and bad persuasive efforts. And we’ll try our hands at persuading someone to do something important to us. All the while we’ll be trying to build our own theories of persuasion – and maybe have some fun!

There is truth to the rumor that Kenneth Doyle is a maverick. He is a former monk, retired financial planner and investment advisor (once licensed in stocks and bonds, life/health insurance, and real estate), and a licensed financial psychologist (PhD Minnesota). Especially interested in cross-cultural meanings of money, he’s president of the Minnesota chapter of the Circumnavigators Club (limited to people who have circumnavigated the globe). He studied in Italy when Caesar was a boy, and has visited 55 countries.

Impact of the 1908, 1948, and 2012 Olympics on London and the World
Donald Dengel, Kinesiology

Fall 2015
KIN 1904, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Marucci Arena 141
East Bank, Minneapolis
35627

The city of London, England, has hosted the Summer Olympic Games on three separate occasions—more than any other city in the history of the modern Olympics. These three Olympic Games came at very different periods in history, and impacted not only the economics, society, and infrastructure of the city of London, but also the world. We will explore the impact of each of these three Olympic Games as well as the contributions they have had on society in the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. In addition, we will explore the changes in sport that have occurred during this time span and the role of each of these Olympic Games on these changes.

Donald Dengel teaches undergraduate exercise physiology and serves as director of the Human Performances Teaching Laboratory. He directs two research laboratories, and his research interests include exercise physiology, pediatrics, obesity, metabolism, vascular biology, and exercise biochemistry. He has also worked with a number of Olympic athletes as an exercise physiologist at the United States Olympic Training Center.

Invented Languages
Jean-Philippe Marcotte, Linguistics

Fall 2015
LING 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Elliott Hall S225
East Bank, Minneapolis
35352

As far back as we can tell, there have been thousands of natural languages spoken by humans the world over — 7,102 today, according to a recent authoritative count. So why are there also hundreds and hundreds of invented languages? What niche are they intended to fill? And why did so few of them make it out of the works of their inventors? In this seminar we will approach these questions by looking at languages invented by philosophical taxonomists during the Enlightenment, by internationalists in the late 1800s, by simulationists in the 1900s; we will take a look at online communities of language inventors to understand what makes them tick, and see how invented languages and their inventors are portrayed in the media. To get the most out of all this we will also have to talk about the properties of natural languages: how they are structured, how they are used, how they change over time, and why there are so many of them.

At an impressionable age, Jean-Philippe Marcotte became fascinated with the invented languages of J.R.R. Tolkien, discovered he had been a philologist, and made sure to pick a college with a philology course. But introduction to linguistics was a prerequisite, and JP has been on that sidetrack ever since. He has been teaching at the University of Minnesota for 10 years.
Music and Gender
Kelley Harness, Music

Fall 2015
MUS 1905, Section 002
3 credits
MW, 1:25 - 2:40 p.m.
Ferguson Hall 123
West Bank, Minneapolis
34560

Why is it that men composed so much of the classical music heard in concert halls or studied in college classes? In what ways are some musical instruments or genres still seen as feminine or masculine? This seminar is intended to introduce students to the ways in which women and gender have influenced the history of music. Through weekly reading and listening assignments, as well as in-class discussion, we will study some of the women who made important contributions as composers, performers, and patrons and will also examine the social contexts that encouraged (or discouraged) their musical endeavors. We will also review some of the recent literature to consider gender as a means of understanding music composed by women and men. While the main focus of the seminar will be the European classical tradition, we will also spend several weeks studying non-Western musical traditions as well as American popular music.

Despite having started piano lessons at the age of 7, musicology professor Kelley Harness never played any music composed by a woman until she reached college, when she discovered the music of 19th-century prodigy Clara Wieck Schumann. Today's young musicians probably could report similar musical experiences. Harness has devoted much of her scholarly career to investigating women's contributions to music history, with a particular focus on their role as patrons in the 16th and 17th centuries, research that culminated in her book entitled Echoes of Women's Voice: Music, Art, and Female Patrons in Early Modern Florence.

Guitar Heroes
Maja Radovanlija, Music

Fall 2015
MUS 1905
3 credits
West Bank, Minneapolis

This seminar is going to explore music related to the most popular instrument in the world: guitar. Students will be introduced to the centuries-old world of classical guitar, the flamenco guitar, the guitar in Latin America, African guitar styles, the birth of American guitar (blues, country, jazz, etc.) and rock/electric guitar. We will explore the role of the guitar in popular music, jazz, world, and classical music.

Maja Radovanlija has been playing guitar since she was 9 and is still learning new pieces. Her first complex word was GI-TA-RA (guitar in Serbian). Trained as a classical guitarist, she was always curious about the great variety of other styles and genres. She was a member of the Balkan ensemble, currently a member of Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, ImprovisAndDo trio and enjoys performing the music of Bach and Rodrigo in solo recitals. In her free time she plays table tennis, explores yoga and meditation, picks wild mushrooms, writes haiku poems, travels the world, and cooks Serbian dishes.

Music in Nazi Germany
Karen Painter, Music

Fall 2015
MUS 1908W, Section 001
LE: Civic Life and Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
West Bank, Minneapolis
34559

Apart from an explicit message in the lyrics, title, or dedication, can music itself be political? Often, the political message comes from the interpreter, not just the composer or performer. Are composers responsible for the effect of the music, regardless of their intentions? How have those in power sought to legitimize their rule through the arts? Can the arts maintain their independence? What is the responsibility of the listener in a highly political environment? This seminar will examine the role of art and art censorship by focusing on one of history's most brutal regimes, which was also among the greatest patrons of music. What compromises and benefits followed when a musician, conductor, or composer collaborated? Did exploiting music actually help the Nazis to build support? How should citizens of democratic societies commemorate and judge the choices that artists made in harsher times?

Karen Painter studied music and philosophy at Yale, and obtained her PhD in musicology from Columbia. Before coming to the University of Minnesota in 2007, she taught at Dartmouth and Harvard, and served as senior staff at the National Endowment for the Arts. She received a Berlin Prize in 2000 and was a Maître de conférences invitee at the School of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris in 2010. She and her husband have three school-aged children.

Chronic Illness in the United States: From Cell to Society
Joseph Gaugler, Adult and Gerontological Health

Fall 2015
NURS 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Tuesday, 1:25 – 4:25 p.m.
Weaver-Densford Hall 4-130
East Bank, Minneapolis
35119

As health care treatment and science have advanced over the past century, the primary causes of death in the United States have shifted from acute illnesses to chronic diseases. This seminar will explore four of the most common chronic illnesses among the adult United States population with the goal of understanding the biological mechanisms of, clinical treatment strategies for, and psychosocial ramifications of each type of chronic illness. Relying on current scientific findings as well as interactive presentations from basic scientists, clinical experts, and patients and their family members, we will obtain greater awareness of how to treat chronic illnesses.

Joseph Gaugler is a developmental psychologist with an interdisciplinary research focus. His interests include the longitudinal ramifications of family care for disabled adults, the effectiveness of community-based and psychosocial services for chronically ill adults and their caregiving families, the social integration of residents in nursing homes and other emerging models of long-term care (e.g., assisted living, family care homes), and developmental methodology. When he isn’t working, Joe spends time with his basset hound, Bruizer, and his beagle, Samantha. He also volunteers and avidly follows the Pittsburgh Steelers and Penn State Nittany Lions football squads.
Comics as Art
Roy Cook, Philosophy

Fall 2015
PHIL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Blegen Hall 115
West Bank, Minneapolis
26613

Comics were once thought to be appropriate only for children. Recently, however, telling a story by combining drawings and word balloons has acquired an unexpected (but not undeserved!) respectability. The Holocaust memoir Maus won a Pulitzer Prize; the graphic novel Watchmen appeared on Time Magazine’s Top 100 Novels of All-Time list; and Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth won the prestigious Guardian First Book Award.

In this seminar, we will explore the idea that comics are as legitimate an art form as painting or poetry. We will ask: How do comics differ from other artistic media? How does reading a comic differ from reading poetry or novels? How have comics influenced, and been influenced by, culture and politics? And what, exactly, makes a comic a comic (and not something else)?

Roy Cook has a special interest in philosophical thought about the popular arts (including film, television, comics and cartoons, LEGO sculpture, collectible toys, and tattoos). He has been an avid reader of comic books since he was a child, when Spiderman was his favorite character, although he now prefers darker, more troubled superheroes (such as the Batman) and independent comics. He believes you can tell the difference between a normal person and an authentic nerd by whether they say “Batman” or “THE Batman.”

Quantum Mechanics for Everyone
Allen Goldman, Physics and Astronomy

Fall 2015
PHYS 1905
2 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

One of the greatest intellectual accomplishments of the 20th century was the development of quantum mechanics, a field of physics which describes the counter-intuitive behavior of molecules, atoms, light, and subatomic particles. Can you pass through a solid wall without disturbing yourself or the wall? An electron can and does repeatedly in many common semiconductor devices. Without an understanding of quantum mechanics, neither the transistor nor the laser could have been invented. A significant fraction of the entire economy is based on technological developments that derive directly from quantum mechanics. This seminar will examine, with a bare minimum of mathematics, the conceptual foundations of the strange world of the quantum, as well as its connection with devices and systems that we take for granted in our everyday lives.

Allen Goldman served as the head of the School of Physics and Astronomy from 1996 to 2009. His research is in the area of experimental condensed matter physics. The specific work on superconductivity involves the application of quantum mechanics to macroscopic systems.

Aurora: From Myths to Modern Science
Cynthia Cattell, Physics and Astronomy

Fall 2015
PHYS 1905
2 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

The aurora, or northern lights, have long fascinated humans. We now know that aurora also occur on many other planets, including Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus. We will examine the myths from both the northern and southern hemispheres that were devised to explain this beautiful natural phenomenon. The development of our scientific understanding of the aurora is littered with completely incorrect explanations by prominent scientists. It is only with the new measurements made after the space age that we have finally begun to understand the aurora – both on earth and on other planets. If the space weather cooperates, we will try to observe the aurora.

Cynthia Cattell is a professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy. She first saw the aurora on a climbing expedition in Alaska, as a college freshman. Little did she know at that time that the study of the physics of the aurora would become the topic of her doctoral dissertation, and the research of some of her students.

Global Warming Solutions
Eric Ganz, Physics and Astronomy

Fall 2015
PHYS 1905
2 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

In this seminar, we will consider various possible solutions to the current and future global warming problem. This is a topic of intense global importance. Needless to say, many solutions will need to be pursued vigorously to achieve substantial reductions in global warming. Topics will include efficiency and conservation, reduced carbon in electricity production and transportation, wind and solar power, nuclear power, policy changes, third world solutions, reforestation, and more.

Eric Ganz is a solid state physicist working in computational simulations of nanoscale materials.
The Perils and Promises of Community

Joan Tronto, Political Science

Fall 2015
POL 1903, Section 001
LE: Civic Life and Ethics
3 credits
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
35771

The University of Minnesota recently announced that one of the “Grand Challenges” that it seeks to address is the challenge of “vibrant communities.” How can we address this challenge, though, unless we know what a “community” is? While most of us have positive associations about our own community, the term is also used to mark those who are marginal in society, for example, when President Obama referred to “community and police relations” after the events in Ferguson, Missouri. So, is community a good thing, or is it about inequality and injustice? Does an attachment to community make us too focused on the local to the neglect of more global concerns? Can communities exist in cyberspace? In this seminar, we will read through classic texts that define community and consider some of the positive and negative effects of community.

Antibiotics: Promise, Profits, and Pitfalls

Linda Kinkel, Plant Pathology
Christine Salomon, Center for Drug Design

Fall 2015
PLPA 1942, Section 001
LE: Technology and Society
3 credits
TuTh, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 119
East Bank, Minneapolis
33900

The discovery and availability of antibiotics has fundamentally changed the treatment of human infectious diseases. However, the broad effectiveness of antibiotics in reducing bacterial infections has led to overuse in medicine and agriculture. Consequences of overuse include widespread resistance to common antibiotics as well as antibiotic contamination in the environment. Antibiotic resistance currently represents a significant threat to treatment of some infectious bacteria, yet profit incentives and patenting regulations have limited investments by pharmaceutical companies in development of new antimicrobials. This seminar will explore the intriguing biology, chemistry, ecology, and evolutionary biology of antimicrobial warfare; the history of antibiotic discovery; the broad uses for antibiotics in medicine and agriculture; the costs, profits, and patenting issues associated with antibiotic development and production; the ethics of antibiotic regulation in developed and developing countries; and the future of antibiotic therapies in medicine and agriculture.

Linda Kinkel is a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology. Her research focuses on the ecology and evolutionary biology of antibiotic-producing bacteria in soil and on their use in the biological control of plant diseases.

Christine Salomon is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Center for Drug Design. Her research program is focused on the discovery of novel natural products from microbes with antibiotic and anti-cancer activities.

What Is Time?

J. Woods Halley, Physics and Astronomy

Fall 2015
PHYS 1910W
LE: Writing Intensive
2 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

The precise meaning and use of the concept of time has evoked serious study and debate among the most able of human thinkers for more than 2,000 years. We will review several of the current perspectives as well as some of this history of the concept of time from the points of view of philosophers, biologists, psychologists, and physicists.

J. Woods Halley teaches physics courses at all levels and directs research programs in low temperature and chemical physics. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, as well as a member of the University of Minnesota graduate faculties of physics and materials science.

As a working class kid at an elite liberal arts college, Joan Tronto learned what it meant to feel like “the other.” Perhaps that is why she has spent much of her scholarly life writing about the political significance of care; that is, what most women and men spend most of their ordinary lives doing. This is the first time she is teaching a course to address this related question: Why should we care about communities?
E Pluribus Unum? The States, the Feds, and the Contested Meaning of American Federalism

Andrew Karch, Political Science

Fall 2015
POL 1905, Section 002
3 credits
MW, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
Social Sciences Building 278
West Bank, Minneapolis
25752

Climate change. Health care reform. Immigration. In the early 21st century, many of the central issues in American politics are characterized by heightened tensions between the 50 states and the national government. Has the United States entered a new era of “uncooperative” or “fend for yourself” federalism, or have these tensions always existed? In this seminar, we will investigate the constitutional foundations and the contemporary policy implications of American federalism as well as the relationship between states’ rights and individual rights. By reading and discussing a variety of primary and secondary sources we will also gain an appreciation for the profound, if often under-appreciated, ways that federalism determines what it means to be a member of the American community. The discussion-based format of the seminar will give students an opportunity to develop their critical thinking, oral communication, and writing skills.

Having grown up just outside of Washington, D.C., Andrew Karch developed an early interest in American politics and public policy. Today he is a political scientist whose recent research has focused on such contemporary issues as early childhood education, criminal justice reform, and embryonic stem cell research. He is fascinated by the way in which Americans’ experience with their government depends on the states in which they live and hopes that the students who take his seminar come to share this fascination.

Whose Community? The Politics of Violence Against Women

Daniel Kelliher, Political Science

Fall 2015
POL 1905, Section 003
3 credits
Tuesday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey Center 184
West Bank, Minneapolis
25905

By the time you arrive at the U this fall, you’ll have heard about the failure of universities to deal with sexual assault on campus. Universities aren’t alone. Like the most extreme fraternities and sports teams, some communities acquiesce, or even collaborate in violence against women. Video game executives remained silent when gamers threatened female journalists with murder and rape for criticizing video game degradation of women. National Football League players’ wives sought protection against domestic violence, but the NFL and multiple local police departments told them to keep quiet. In the military, where sexual assault has been rampant, commanding officers have intimidated victims and intervened to shield perpetrators from prosecution. What beliefs and habits allow sexual violence, on campus and elsewhere, to persist? Why do these communities have an instinct to side with men, even violent men? In this seminar you’ll find a safe place to confront these distorted community responses, and learn how to analyze the arrangements of power that invisibly structure daily life.

Daniel Kelliher (PhD, Yale University) is a Distinguished University Teaching Professor of Political Science. After years of doing research in China, he began teaching classes aimed at contemporary issues in American life. He has won the major teaching awards at the U, and is best known for creating innovative courses that connect directly to students’ lives. He says, “I know that some courageous, intellectually talented women will take my freshman seminar. The question is, ‘How many of the incoming male students are brave enough to take it?’ ”
The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction

Murray Jensen, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning

Fall 2015
PSTL 1942, Section 001
LE: Technology and Society
3 credits
MW, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Bruininks Hall
420B
East Bank, Minneapolis
22276

In this seminar, students will read, discuss, debate, and generally engage with a myriad of issues surrounding the science of genetics and the application of revolutionary technologies to human reproduction. Students will explore topics and controversies relating to the past, present, and future of human sexual activity and human reproduction, and how reproductive technologies (such as in vitro fertilization) have helped shape our modern society. Through the use of both fiction and non-fiction literature, students will learn the details of current scientific breakthroughs such as “designer babies.” This seminar aims to engage students in an exploration of their personal beliefs about the roles of science, the government, and also religious institutions on human reproductive rights.

Murray Jensen is a Horace T. Morse Distinguished Teaching Professor of Biological Sciences in the College of Education and Human Development. His teaching areas include entry-level biology, human anatomy and physiology, and graduate level courses in STEM teaching and learning. Jensen’s research areas focus on developing teaching strategies within active learning environments, and in 2007 he earned the Society for College Science Teacher’s Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award.

Fresh off the Boat: Growing Up Asian American

Rich Lee, Psychology

Fall 2015
PSY 1902, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
3 credits
Friday, 10:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
Elliott Hall N668
East Bank, Minneapolis
23794

This seminar examines the nature and meaning of being Asian American in the United States, with a particular focus on immigrant, refugee, second-generation, and adoptee communities that are unique to Minnesota and the Midwest. Students will learn about the history, struggle, and success of Asian Americans. Drawing upon psychological theory and research, as well as interdisciplinary ethnic studies scholarship, the seminar engages students in a critical analysis of the ways in which race, ethnicity, and migration affect the everyday lives of Asian American individuals and families.

Rich Lee’s research examines the ways in which race, ethnicity, culture, and migration affect the psychological and social lives of Asian American individuals and families. He is most fascinated by how parents talk (or don’t talk) to their children about racial and ethnic issues, how individuals develop racial and ethnic identities, and how people experience and confront racism and discrimination in everyday life. His current work involves helping Hmong American parents become better parents. When not at work, Rich spends time with his wife and two young children and, when time permits, rides his bike, sings karaoke, and cooks meals without recipes.

Psychology of Eating and Body Image

Traci Mann, Psychology

Fall 2015
PSY 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Friday, 10:10 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
Elliott Hall N227
East Bank, Minneapolis
23996

This seminar covers the continuum of human eating behavior, from hunger, starvation, and restraint, to binge eating and obesity, as well as body image. I hope that during this seminar we can call into question several myths about eating and obesity that you may believe. We will discuss the media’s influence on body image, as well as the development of body image concerns. We will read about the famous starvation study conducted on this very campus over 60 years ago, as well as the causes and consequences of obesity. We will learn about the effectiveness (or not!) of diets, and about the little things that may be influencing our eating without us realizing it. We will talk about solutions to these problems, and about what healthy eating really is.

Traci Mann’s research focuses on how people control and change their health-related behaviors, and in particular, their eating. She has conducted research on whether diets are effective, eating disorder prevention, psychological factors that influence dieters’ eating, and whether comfort food actually makes people feel better. She is currently doing research on ways to get astronauts to eat more, which includes a study that will be conducted on the International Space Station. Her book, Secrets from the Eating Lab, was published by Harper Collins this year.

What is the Human Mind?

Chad Marsolek, Psychology

Fall 2015
PSY 1905, Section 002
3 credits
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Elliott Hall N227
East Bank, Minneapolis
23997

You are reading the description of a seminar. That is, some part of you is capable of taking a series of shapes as visual input, abstracting intended meaning from them, organizing the information, and evaluating what you’ve organized (e.g., “fascinating seminar?”). Your mind accomplishes this task, not your lungs or heart, but what is this thing—“mind”—that is capable of such complex internal information processing? Is it just a flurry of activated brain cells? Is it something non-physical? When you think about it, one of the most intriguing aspects of the universe is that you can think, that minds operate as entities that appear to be crucially tied to physical brains but that are also importantly different. In this seminar, we will examine conceptions of the human mind from psychological, philosophical, and neuroscientific perspectives. Can science and critical analysis offer a concrete and compelling specification of the human mind?

Chad Marsolek investigates human memory, vision, and learning (as well as how emotional and social factors influence these abilities), from the perspective of how the brain underlies these abilities. His most influential work has been in uncovering important aspects of unconscious versus conscious memory and left/right hemisphere differences in the brain. His most important form of “sanity maintenance,” for both of his hemispheres, is live music, although he’s not quite sure how conscious or unconscious he is of such maintenance.
Field Guides and Food Systems
Valentine Cadieux, Psychology

Fall 2015
PSY 1942, Section 001
LE: Technology and Society
3 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

“Good food” claims appear everywhere, along with projects to improve or support food goodness. This seminar uses social science sustainability frameworks to explore how people decide food is good from personal, social, and environmental perspectives. It’s challenging to understand what people mean by their claims about what makes food “good.” Psychology and related social sciences provide explanations for how people interact with food in its social and environmental contexts. The emerging field of sustainability psychology provides insights for exploring the competing claims made about social and technological ways to make food good.

Course activities work to build a guide for navigating confusion and conflicts related to good food. The process of building field guides will help students and collaborators understand what it means to make food “good” and to rigorously justify claims to goodness. This process will also provide a way to translate the explorations of the class into useful decision support tools for the communities working on food, society, and environment issues.

Valentine Cadieux’s research group, the Food and Society Workshop, uses public action research to help communities solve food system problems—in weekly milk and cookies workshops last fall, for example, we built a glossary to translate between different meanings of food words people thought were important. Such work—in the form of interactive games, “uncomfortable dinner parties,” Minnesota State Fair exhibits, and open source field guides—helps people explore what makes food chain relationships healthy, sustainable, and equitable, even when they might disagree about what tastes good.

Go Outside and Play!
Connie Magnuson, Kinesiology

Fall 2015
REC 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Thursday, 9/10/2015 – 10/15/2015, 9:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis 22758

Do you like to play? This seminar is designed to introduce students to the great outdoors right here in the Twin Cities. There are tremendous resources available within an easy walk, bike, or bus ride/light rail of campus including local parks, state parks, and even a national park! There are also outstanding agencies and programs on and around campus with opportunities for involvement and becoming connected and engaged in the community. This is a hands-on, in-the-field class where students work together to develop and lead day trips around the Twin Cities finding fun outdoor activities to try. This seminar meets all day for six Thursdays. We are off and playing on day one. I’ll plan the first few trips…the rest of the trips are up to you. Are you up for an adventure?

Connie Magnuson is the director of the Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies program in the School of Kinesiology. She is an avid outdoor person who believes in practicing what she teaches and a world explorer who leads learning abroad trips to Kenya, Costa Rica and Belize. She also is the race director for the Gopher Adventure Race.

American Drug Cultures: Pleasures, Panics, and Punishments
Teresa Gowan, Sociology

Fall 2015
SOC 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Blegen Hall 435
West Bank, Minneapolis 23903

This seminar will get you thinking hard about the immense popularity of mood-enhancing drugs, legal and illegal. Why do we want to modify our moods, and how do we set about it? Why do some people throw themselves into drug use while others fearfully avoid it? Why is drug use and sale such a primary target of crime control? And why do many more of us feel worried about “addiction” to shopping, sex, or gambling? Looking at academic studies, memoirs, and film we’ll build a comparative analysis of drug cultures, conceptions of addiction, and changing forms of intervention, from 12-step to harm reduction, and from educational campaigns to the drug court movement.

Teresa Gowan comes from England, and plays the fiddle in a local band called the Gated Community. She loves ethnography — her book Hobos, Hustlers, and Backsliders: Homeless in San Francisco is based on several years of street research with homeless men. Teresa enjoys teaching interdisciplinary classes which bring fiction, film, and music into dialogue with sociological research and analysis.
**Fantastic Female Fictions**

Ofelia Ferrán, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Fall 2015
SPAN 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuFh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Folwell Hall 5
East Bank, Minneapolis
25874

In this seminar, we will read fiction written by contemporary Spanish female authors in which fantasy or science fiction is used as a way to explore different conceptions of self and community. We will read short stories (in English) by authors such as Merce Rodoreda, Cristina Fernández Cubas, and Rosa Montero, including texts written both during the Franco regime and afterwards, as well as texts written within Spain and in exile. Students will develop critical analytical skills through the practice of close readings of the primary literary texts as well as by applying to the short stories ideas from a range of secondary texts of literary criticism and theory. Throughout the course, we will explore how these female authors use elements of fantasy and science fiction to imagine the world differently, subverting both traditional gender roles and received ideas of community.

Ofelia Ferrán is associate professor of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies. She specializes in modern and contemporary Spanish literature and culture. Some of her research interests include trauma, memory studies, and the ways in which societies confront legacies of past violence, feminism and women’s literature, as well as the cultural production of Spanish writers and artists exiled from Spain after the Spanish civil war. She is always interested in exploring the transformative potential of art and how it can serve to question established norms and beliefs.

**Gambling Problems, Insurance, and Big Data: History and Philosophy of Statistics**

Charles Geyer, Statistics

Fall 2015
STAT 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:15 p.m.
Amundson Hall 104
East Bank, Minneapolis
26210

In this seminar we will explore the understanding and misunderstanding of probability and statistics. We will discuss folk probability and statistics which is what untrained people think about these subjects and also what experts say when they haven’t heard it before and are forced to guess rather than calculate. We will also explore the law of large numbers and the central limit theorem, least squares and linear models, Bayesian inference and philosophy, the Bootstrap, Markov chain Monte Carlo, and other inference based on computer simulation. Finally, we’ll look at Big Data, over-fitting, model selection, bias-variance tradeoff, information criteria, and correction for multiple testing.

Charles Geyer is a professor in the School of Statistics. His applied research areas include statistical genetics, especially life history analysis and quantitative genetics. His theoretical research areas include Markov chain Monte Carlo, social networks, exponential families, and exponential family mixed models. He often works in collaboration with his sister, Ruth Shaw, also a professor at the University of Minnesota.

**Images of Youth**

Michael Baizerman, Social Work

Fall 2015
SW 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Saint Paul

This seminar will examine not only a variety of notions about youth, the actual persons and “youth” they represent, but also the personal, social, and cultural spaces between young persons and their images and representations, and how these vary by time, social arena, true self, ethnicity, geography, social class, gender, sexuality, and the like.

Michael Baizerman teaches courses on understanding youth, youth subcultures, and research with and about young people. He is active in community youth worker professional development, and is also active internationally on youth policy, programs, and youth worker training.

**The Great Actresses and Divas of Theatre, Films, Opera, and Musicals**

Elizabeth Nash, Theatre Arts and Dance

Fall 2015
TH 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MW, 9:05 – 11:00 a.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey 35
West Bank, Minneapolis
23803

This seminar highlights actresses and divas from Byzantium’s Empress Theodora in the 6th century to America’s Barbra Streisand in the 21st. The activities of their male contemporaries are well documented, but the female performers have been sadly neglected. The names of Sarah Bernhardt, Maria Callas, Meryl Streep, and Julie Andrews are generally recognized, but what about Isabella Andreini, Lillian Gish, Marian Anderson, and Josephine Baker? All have made unique contributions to theatre, film, opera, and the musical as leading female performers of their time. They were and are the role models who inspire future generations.

For 10 years, Elizabeth Nash was a leading coloratura soprano in European opera houses. Currently, she teaches speech, singing for musical theatre, and textual analysis in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. She is the author of the biographies Geraldine Farrar Opera’s Charismatic Innovator; Autobiographical Reminiscences of African-American Classical Singers, 1853-present; The Memoirs of Sylvia Olden Lee, Premier African-American Classical Vocal Coach; Pieces of Rainbow and the Luminous Ones, A History of the Great Actresses.
Art Laboratory: A Place to Play

Michael Sommers,
Theatre Arts and Dance

Fall 2015
TH 1905, Section 002
3 credits
Thursday, 1:25 - 4:25 p.m.
Hubert H. Humphrey 35
West Bank, Minneapolis
33831

How do you define collaboration?

This seminar presents the characteristics and the challenges of collaboration through representative approaches from the visual arts, music, literature, media, and theater. The seminar content is designed upon three pillars: the collaborative space, flow, and gesture. Through concrete problematic situations, in-class discussion, readings, and proposed themes, students will work collaboratively to create a series of events/works to be presented in class. The art of collaboration is a laboratory, a place to play, inspire, question, and fail. It is a platform to unlock personal images, and to cross boundaries to further understand the role of creativity, and innovation while discovering expression across disciplines.

Michael Sommers is an associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. As a theatre artist he has worked as a designer, director, composer, and performer and is a co-founder of Open Eye Figure Theatre based in Minneapolis. He has created over 40 works for the Open Eye stage, and his work has been performed both nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including the Bush Vision Award, a Ford Fellowship, and the Doris Duke Impact Award.

Live Theater: Creating and Expressing Community

Sonja Kultinec, Theatre Arts and Dance

Fall 2015
TH, 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Social Sciences Building 278
West Bank, Minneapolis
33899

How is live performance sustainable in a digital world? When does theater help us feel connected? When does it provide a space to name and negotiate our differences? This seminar introduces non-theater (and potential) majors to the richness and diversity of small and mid-sized theater in the Twin Cities such as Penumbra, Mixed Blood, and Ten Thousand Things. We will use the rich cultural resources of the Twin Cities, supplemented by in-class discussions and conversations with professionals, to develop a critical language with which to look at, think, discuss, and write about live performance – particularly its relationship to who we are to ourselves and to each other. We'll think together about how theater might forge a different kind of “commonwealth” and be a part of creating a sustainable community.

Sonja Kultinec has been making and attending theater for 40 years (if you count her “original” first grade princess plays). Since then she has branched into creating theater with youth in the Balkans, Israel/Palestine, Afghanistan, and Minnesota. She has written about theater development with Chicano farmworkers, Israeli prisoners, North Dakota bartenders, and Guthrie audiences. She is fascinated by how theater helps us to forge, negotiate, and express community – whether we make it or watch it. When we exercise our imaginations together, we hone a muscle that’s essential for world-making.

Poison, Poisoning, and Society

Ashok Singh, Veterinary Population Medicine

Fall 2015
VPM 1905, Section 002
2 credits
MW, 10:10 - 11:00 a.m.
Bruininks Hall 131A
East Bank, Minneapolis
25718

Technological developments may improve the quality of human life, but they cause problems for the society, especially environmental damage caused by pollution. Technological advancements in the areas of food, agricultural and cosmetic industries have been shown to release poisons that have direct negative impacts on human and animal health. Recently, there has been a rapid growth of high-energy drinks, cosmetics containing nanoparticles or fossil fuel laced with toxic chemicals with high potential for causing adverse effects. As society becomes accustomed to technological advancements, poisons arising from industries may pose a serious threat to society in terms of high regulatory, medical and environmental cleanup costs. However, overall impact of industrial poisons on society is not fully understood. The aims of this course are (1) characterize poisons emitted by various technological advancements, (2) discuss beneficial and adverse effects of chemicals, and (3) strategize remediation steps that may halt or repair environment contamination.

Ashok Singh’s research focuses on environmental and developmental toxicology. He is also interested in establishing possible relationships between the evolution of human society and the increase in environmental pollution.

Garbage, Government, and the Globe

Ashok Singh, Veterinary Population Medicine

Fall 2015
VPM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
MW, 9:05 – 9:55 a.m.
Bruininks Hall 131A
East Bank, Minneapolis
25075

Garbage, in broad sense, can be defined as anything (solids, liquid, or gas) carelessly discarded because it is perceived to be worthless in our homes, businesses, institutions, and factories. When humans were hunters and gatherers, they consumed what was needed, discarded what could not be used, and moved on. Being part of nature, the discarded items degraded into reusable nutrients. Human interaction with the environment was well balanced and human footprints on the Earth were very minute, if at all. However, as industrial revolution led to the development of large industries, humans began to invent things not part of nature, thus the natural balance began to misbalance. This results in accumulation of garbage into the environment, resulting in pollution of the atmosphere, land, and water sources. Recently, economic globalization has further increased the magnitude of environmental pollution and ensuing deterioration of public health. If the current trend is not reversed, planet Earth may eventually become uninhabitable.

Ashok Singh’s research focuses on environmental and developmental toxicology. He is also interested in establishing possible relationships between the evolution of human society and the increase in environmental pollution.
Aquatic Toxicology, Water Safety, and Society

Ashok Singh, Veterinary Population Medicine

Fall 2015
VPM 1905, Section 003
2 credits
Monday, 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 512A
East Bank, Minneapolis
33959

Water is an essential ingredient of life. As society is industrializing, clean water is becoming a rare commodity. Water-sediment interaction in the environment sets boundary conditions for life, as water and nutrients extracted from rocks are essential to all known life-forms. Therefore, pollution of water and sediments may adversely affect their dwellers as well as humans. Water-sediment interaction may also affect the fate and transport of pollutants that distribute between soil and water, depending on the properties of the toxin (water solubility, ionic and electronic charge, shape and size, and stability), sediment characteristics (type, surface charge, hydrophobic sites, porosity, and water retention) and water chemistry (pH, salinity, pollution, particles, and organic carbon). Thus, the risk of aquatic and terrestrial animals to a toxin’s toxicity may also change depending upon water sediment characteristics.

Ashok Singh’s research focuses on environmental and developmental toxicology. He is also interested in establishing possible relationships between the evolution of human society and the increase in environmental pollution.

Questioning Authority: The Past, Present, and Future of Higher Education

Patrick Bruch, Writing Studies

Fall 2015
WRIT 1908W, Section 001
LE: Civic Life and Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Bruininks Hall 530B
East Bank, Minneapolis
23639

This seminar will introduce students to the intellectual projects of studying and participating in higher education as a participatory institution by inviting freshmen into critical dialogue with past, present, popular, and academic representations of higher education and its civic purposes. We will examine the shifting role of the university in public life and the roles that students and other constituencies have played in shaping the character of higher education through writing and other activities. Designed specifically for first-year students, this seminar will combine academic skill building with personal and collective reflection on the actual and possible purposes and values of higher education for individuals and society.

As a kid, Patrick Bruch got into trouble for questioning authority. When he went to college, he was happy to find that questioning authority is central to the university’s mission of creating new knowledge. This background informs his current research into the ways that regular people influence and shape powerful institutions, such as education. He studies writing, the teaching of writing, and higher education, all with an eye on the power of regular people to create a world that serves the interests of justice, fairness, and democracy.

From Fashion to Fashioning a World: Magazines and Literacy

Tom Reynolds, Writing Studies

Fall 2015
WRIT 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Nolte Center for Continuing Education 229
East Bank, Minneapolis
23640

In this seminar, we will study magazines and other smaller publications – some of which you’ve already read, some of which you haven’t – to discuss and write about their significance as cultural artifacts. How can magazines, when seen as “composed” objects, help us with our own writing? How is the rise of the zine and e-zine responding to the evolving digital age? We will examine all aspects of the magazine, including its art, political statements, target audience, and history.

Tom Reynolds’ research and teaching examines ways that magazines and other popular forms of writing “teach” us how to live our everyday lives and with what cultural assumptions. He is interested in exploring written and visual elements. He particularly enjoys working with first-year students.
Model Aircraft Design, Flight Test, and Analysis

Brian Taylor, Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics

Spring 2016
AEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
Akerman Hall
East Bank, Minneapolis
56640

Now ubiquitous, powered aircraft flight is only little more than a century old. In this hands-on seminar, we will explore the fundamentals of flight through the design, flight test, and analysis of small, remote-control aircraft. Initially, we will cover the history and fundamentals of flight through lectures and discussion, answering questions such as, “How do aircraft fly?” and “Why do aircraft look so similar?” Then, working in small teams, you will design, build, and flight test an electric remote-control aircraft. You will analyze the flight tests to see if your aircraft performed as expected, write reports, and present on the results.

Brian Taylor is a research specialist in the Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics department and is the director of the department’s Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle (UAV) lab, which develops and operates several small, uninhabited aircraft in support of a range of research activities. He previously worked at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center conducting and leading research in controls and dynamics including aircraft modeling, air data calibration, and optimal control allocation.

From “O Brother Where Art Thou” to “12 Years a Slave:” Southern Roots Music in Film and Media

Gloria Raheja, Anthropology

Spring 2016
ANTH 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
68187

This seminar focuses on the ways in which popular culture (movies and other visual media) presents and comments upon southern American “roots” music. Although the music had deep roots in the American past, it also underwent dramatic transformations as a result of the coming of industrial capitalism to the South and as a result of the commercial recording process itself, especially in the 1920s. This music continues to shape popular music today, and it continues to be a focus of cinematic attention. In this seminar we will focus on three sets of issues. First, we will consider the music in terms of the historical contexts that shaped it. Second, we will consider the question of how popular media and documentary films interpret (in often problematic ways) this music, and what the politics of those representations might be. Third, we will attempt to understand musical genres and the movies in which they are featured in relation to the production of race, class and gender, and the experience of inequality in the United States.

Gloria Goodwin Raheja is an anthropologist with research and teaching interests in South Asia and in the roots music of the American south. She has carried out extensive field research in rural north India and has written on the anthropology of India, on caste, gender, and oral tradition in contemporary India and on colonialism in 19th century India. A current research project focuses on blues music, race, and industrial capitalism in 1920s Appalachia. She teaches courses on anthropological theory, South Asian society, the politics of culture, and the social and cultural contexts of roots music in the United States.
Nothing

Lawrence Rudnick, MN
Institute for Astrophysics

Spring 2016
AST 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
53058

Is “nothing” too wonderful to be true, as the great 18th century physicist Michael Faraday pondered? Following the Bard, in this seminar we will make much ado about “nothing.” From the birth of the universe ex nihilo, to the philosophies that find meaning in nothing, to the tangled history of zero over the centuries, to our beginnings as seen by theologies when even nothing was not. In our journey through the teeming vacuum, “nothing” is sacred, and will be both ventured and gained. Caution is advised, however, in telling people that you’ve signed up for “nothing.”

Lawrence Rudnick is a distinguished teaching professor of astronomy who still can’t believe he gets paid for thinking deep thoughts about the universe. He enjoys teaching and learning with students from freshmen through PhD candidates. His research involves the observation of high energy objects, such as exploded stars and enormous structures with the mass of a quadrillion suns. He uses telescopes around the world and in space, and is also involved in a variety of public outreach activities, including working on a new Bell Museum of Natural History and Planetarium in Saint Paul.

Innovation and Imagination in Ireland

Nicole Letawsky Shultz, College of Biological Sciences Student Services

Spring 2016
BIOL 1904, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
Tuesday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
60831

Sundials, color photography, stethoscopes, iPods. Our world is continually shaped by great ideas. Humans are naturally creative beings, but our brains can constrain innovative thinking through fear, the urge to conform, and the tendency to interpret information in familiar ways. This freshman seminar abroad will explore biological and social perspectives of creativity and innovation through studying familiar examples such as Apple and Disney Pixar. As a class we will move beyond our natural constraints and travel abroad over spring break to Dublin to understand the rich Irish history of innovation across disciplines, including art, science, and technology. Dublin is the emerging “heart of technology in Europe”—home to a slew of start-ups and to proven juggernauts such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon. Learn why and how this shift from an agricultural-based economy has occurred.

Nicole Letawsky Shultz is the assistant dean of the College of Biological Science’s Student Services. Her research interests include college student development and organizational culture and innovation. She is an avid college sports fan who loves to run and do hot yoga. She has taught this freshman seminar abroad previously.
From Ebola to H1N1: Emerging Human Viruses

Sue Wick, Plant Biology

Spring 2016
BIOL 1905, Section 002
1 credit
Monday, 3:35 - 4:50 p.m.
Brinkman Hall 420A
East Bank, Minneapolis
68357

In this seminar, we will examine aspects of human culture, human behavior, world population, and the environment that relate to the emergence of infectious and sometimes deadly viral diseases. Our emphasis will not be so much on diagnosis and treatment of the deadly diseases that these viruses cause, but rather on social and environmental changes that have contributed to the emergence of these viruses in human populations, often from a natural reservoir in wild or domesticated animals. Students will have the opportunity in groups to examine one of several viral diseases, explore possible solutions to solve problems caused by viral outbreaks, and present their findings and recommendations to the class.

Sue Wick has taught introductory biology courses at the University of Minnesota for more than 25 years. Her research is in the areas of plant cell biology and plant development. She enjoys promoting learning in class by guiding students to identify topics of interest to them and helping them to delve into these topics from various angles. She is intrigued by and terrified of the kinds of viruses we will study in this seminar!

American Indian Ways of Knowing the Environment

Mark Bellcourt, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

Spring 2016
CFAN 1902, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States
3 credits
Tuesday, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Coffey Hall 120
Saint Paul
54948

American Indian peoples have occupied Turtle Island or North America for more than 20,000 years. Today, more than 800 American Indian nations have been recognized by the federal government and more than 250 distinct languages are used. Despite the great diversity, American Indian people share many common worldwide views of the environment. They rely almost exclusively on Grandmother Earth to provide for their needs, and their worldviews tend to be more holistic and inclusive than conventional Western science. However, Western science has the prestige, privilege, and power to generate grants and to control what is studied and how. Students will examine the historical, contemporary, and often adversarial relationship between Native American and the traditional Western views of earth sciences to understand the social constructs that legitimize one set of scientific protocols and beliefs over another.

Mark Bellcourt is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Mississippi Band of Ojibwe from White Earth. His research has focused on indigenous ways of knowing math and science. He also coordinates a program for first-year students.

Coral Reef Management in Belize

Jim Perry; Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
Dawn Tanner; Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

Spring 2016
CFAN 1901, Section 001
LE: Environment
3 credits
Thursday, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Stoll Hall 100
Saint Paul
68800

In this seminar, we will examine the management of reef environments through experiential education and field work and learn about the importance of reefs, the influences that endanger reef ecosystems, and community action plans that are working to manage reef health. Over spring break, we will travel as a class to the Mesoamerican Reef in Belize to snorkel and experience the reef and conservation planning first-hand.

Jim Perry is a H.T. Morse Distinguished Professor of Water Quality and Environmental Management. His current research focuses on climate change and the ways it interfaces with the concept and application of heritage at both the local and global levels.

Dawn Tanner earned her Master's and PhD in conservation biology. Her current research focuses on remote cameras and conservation education on clouded leopards in Borneo. Dawn is a teaching specialist at the U of M. She teaches Field Methods in Research & Conservation of Vertebrate Populations.
DNA

Michael Bowser, Chemistry

Spring 2016
CHEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
55533

DNA, the molecule of life. DNA is found in every known living organism yet is the very molecule responsible for the incredible diversity found in life. Considering the central role DNA plays in biology, its impact on science, industry and society is not surprising. What may be surprising is that it is only in the past several decades that technological advances have allowed us to begin to fully realize the potential of genomics research. As with many advances in science, this quickly growing field has raised a number of social and ethical challenges. This course will examine a range of DNA-related topics considering scientific, historical, social, and ethical perspectives. Topics will include the discovery of DNA, DNA in forensics, technology of DNA sequencing, genetically modified foods, and personal genomic testing.

Michael Bowser has been a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of Minnesota since 2000. He earned his PhD at the University of British Columbia and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Florida. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses including those related to analytical chemistry and biotechnology. His research interests include discovery of functional DNA molecules, neurochemical analysis, and microfluidics.

Science in the News

George Barany, Chemistry

Spring 2016
CHEM 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Friday, 2:30 – 4:10 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
60231

This eclectic seminar offers free-wheeling discussions and analysis about modern scientific developments and historical contexts, with the point of departure being the “Science Times” section of The New York Times, which is published every Tuesday.

George Barany is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor who has been on the chemistry faculty of the University of Minnesota since 1980. Previously, he was mentored at The Rockefeller University by Nobel laureate R.B. Merrifield. Barany has well over 350 scientific papers, reviews, and patents on his research in organic chemistry and chemical biology, and has also published several New York Times crossword puzzles.

Picture Books and Graphic Novels

Marek Oziewicz, Curriculum and Instruction

Spring 2016
CI 1904
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
East Bank, Minneapolis

This course will explore picture books and graphic novels as formats of contemporary children’s literature especially conducive to the development of young people’s visual literacy. Picture books and graphic novels will be examined for their similarities and differences, their multiple uses, and cultural significance. Our focus will be on the image/word interaction, the complexity of pictorial reading/storytelling, the thematic scope, artistic techniques, and the historical overview of different approaches to visual narratives around the world. You will read a variety of global and multicultural picture books and graphic novels accompanied by critical and theoretical readings. You will complete several written assignments, including a picture project and a sequential art project. The structure of class discussions, presentations, and projects will help you become an active thinker about complexity, diversity, and change in the global world as well as within the field of children’s and young adult literature.

Marek Oziewicz is the Marguerite Henry Professor of Children’s and Young Adult Literature at the University of Minnesota. He discovered books as a child and was never the same afterward. A compulsive reader and award-winning scholar specializing in speculative fiction and global literature, Marek believes in the power of stories to nurture human potential and understanding across cultures.

Selfies: Media and the Culture of Me

Laurie Ouellette, Communication Studies

Spring 2016
COMM 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
65531

In 2013, Oxford Dictionaries announced selfie as their word of the year, explaining that usage had increased 17,000% in the English language in just 12 months. Defined as “a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website,” the selfie is now a staple of social media platforms from Facebook to Instagram, and taking and posting selfies has become a regular social practice, particularly for young people. How did this happen? This seminar examines the emerging media “culture of me” from a range of critical perspectives. Tracing the cultural history of the selfie from earlier forms of self-portraiture and first-person media to the rise of social media, we will examine the selfie phenomenon within broader cultural trends, from the explosion of ordinary people in the media to developments in interactive media technologies, micro celebrity, integrated marketing and self-branding.

Laurie Ouellette researches and teaches in the areas of critical media studies and cultural studies. She is interested in the role of ordinary people in media culture, from television to social media. She is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, and is also affiliated with the Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, the Department of American Studies, and the Graduate Minor in Moving Image Studies. She is co-author of Better Living through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship and editor of A Companion to Reality Television, among other books.
Impressionism in Paris and Southern France
Monica Fogg, Graphic Design

Spring 2016
DES 1904, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
Friday, 9:35 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
McNeal Hall 262
Saint Paul
57904

Explore the evolution and revolution of French Impressionism. We will travel as a class to Paris and southern France over spring break to visit sites that served as inspiration for impressionist painters. You will find your own inspiration in bustling cafes, tranquil gardens, the alluring Mediterranean Sea, olive groves, and other notable landscapes. In both the Twin Cities and France, we will visit museums and discuss how and why Impressionism captured the immediacy of experience. No previous art or art history experience is required, only an open mind and a willingness to learn and participate in the process.

Monica Fogg is an artist (watercolor, encaustic, acrylic, woodcut, and lithography) and designer/fabricator. She has taught courses in watercolor, drawing, painting, color theory, design, visual presentation, and art history and has led previous Freshman Seminars Abroad to Japan and France. Her work is in collections throughout the United States.

Design in Istanbul
James Boyd Brent, Graphic Design

Spring 2016
DES 1909W, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Wednesday, 9:35 - 11:30 a.m.
McNeal Hall B9
Saint Paul
57913

Discover the impact and the significance of design in everyday life—in Istanbul, Turkey! This Freshman Seminar Abroad will travel to this wonderful city over spring break and while on campus, we will form a comparative perspective by looking at design trends in Minnesota and the Midwest. In Istanbul, we will examine design innovation in a variety of types of design, exploring the streets of the city, visiting historical and contemporary sites such as Istanbul Modern, the Spice Bazaar, Hagia Sophia, and the small studios of the Galata neighborhood. We will also explore the relevance of ethical and socially responsible design practices and the importance of design thinking and design creativity in this exciting modern city.

James Boyd Brent is a practicing printmaker who has received multiple awards for his work, including the McFarland Outstanding Teaching Award in the College of Design. In addition to graphic design and surface design, he has taught freshman seminars for more than 10 years.
Galileo on Trial in Italy
Laura Coffin Koch, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning

Spring 2016
EDHD 1905W, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Monday, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis

Galileo risked his career, his freedom, and even his life for science. In this Freshman Seminar Abroad, we will learn about Galileo, the conflicts he faced, and how his discoveries forever changed the world. Over spring break, we will travel to Italy. We'll visit Pisa, home of Galileo, and climb the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We'll explore the city of Florence and see one of Galileo's first telescopes, and in Rome we will visit places such as the Vatican and the Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, which provided the backdrop to the end of Galileo's brilliant career. While on campus, we will learn about 17th century Italy and re-enact the trial of Galileo through debate and discussion.

Laura Coffin Koch is a Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Mathematics and currently works as an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines and, since that time many years ago, has developed her passion for traveling and teaching. For each of the past 10 years, she has taken groups of University of Minnesota students to Italy and Istanbul as part of the University's Global Seminar program.

Iceland: Landscapes, Natural Resources, and Environmental Management
Leonard Ferrington Jr., Entomology

Spring 2016
ENT 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:20 p.m.
Saint Paul
59007

Landscapes and natural resources strongly shape the ways in which countries view their relationships to the natural world and how they choose to manage their environmental resources. In this seminar, we will study the landscapes and natural aquatic resources of Iceland. Thingvellir, the historical and traditional seat of Icelandic Parliament for almost 900 years, is located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which forms the rift zone where the American and Eurasian continental plates drift apart and produce a landscape that is rich in natural resources and aesthetic beauty. The area around Thingvellir was proclaimed a national park and national shrine in 1928, and more recently has been the focus of a comprehensive study of the local geology, meteorology, and natural history of both fauna and flora. We will explore how this area is sustainably managed, and its significance as both an environmental and cultural shrine. We will read original research papers, study maps and Google Earth images, and interact periodically with Icelandic students, scientists, and environmental managers.

Leonard Ferrington's interests are related to biological monitoring, water quality assessments, and sustainable management of aquatic resources. His research is intended to develop models that relate the kinds and abundances of aquatic insects to specific environmental pollutants, such as increased organic enrichment, presence of toxic heavy metals and/or acidification. He has collaborated with Icelandic scientists and exchange student researchers for this seminar.
# Ferguson

Kate Derickson; Geography, Environment, and Society

Spring 2016  
GEOG 1905  
3 credits  
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
60598

In August 2014, Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, was shot by a police officer in the streets of Ferguson, Missouri. Eyewitness accounts indicated Brown made a “hands up” gesture of surrender before being shot, touching off a wave of protests and demonstrations around the country. After the officer was exonerated by a grand jury in November 2014, protests broke out across the U.S. Protesters stopped traffic on major highways and sought to disrupt other public spaces, mobilized by social media under the hashtags #shutitdown, #blacklivesmatter, and #Ferguson. Protestors raised objections to the emergent contours of the racial state, exemplified by “stand your ground” laws that disproportionately result in deaths of African Americans, cases where police officers and vigilantes were exonerated in deaths of unarmed Black people, and “stop-and-frisk” policing strategies of New York City’s Bloomberg administration. This seminar explores our understanding of the police economy, cultural politics, and public policies producing the milieu in which these events unfolded.

Kate Derickson is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Society. She has worked with a range of historically marginalized communities seeking to shape their environment.

Politics of Hunger: Food, Development, and Cold-War Politics

Hiromi Mizuno, History

Spring 2016  
HIST 1905, Section 001  
3 credits  
TuTh, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
67785

Food is a basic part of our everyday life, but it is difficult to see macro-level political economy behind food and hunger. This seminar gives a basic understanding of how “hunger” came to be understood and dealt with globally after WWII, and how Cold-War geopolitics affected food shortage and surplus. This seminar is divided into lecture, discussion, and mini-research. In the first half, we will learn — through readings, lecture, films, and discussion — a big picture of how food, agriculture, and environment are tied to world politics. The latter half is devoted to case studies; you will learn how to do a small history research project by using materials available through our library. In terms of skills, this seminar focuses on critical reading, analysis, and research, and presentation skills. We will have a fun, collaborative, and interactive seminar.

Hiromi Mizuno is an intellectual and cultural historian of science and technology, currently working on concepts such as “development,” “modernization,” and “aid.” Her current projects examine the Cold War in Asia, including American policies and Asian actors. Because she is a specialist in modern Japan and Asia/Pacific by training, her goal in teaching is to bring her area of expertise on Japan and current research findings about the U.S. and Asia together. She loves integrating research activities in a seminar to help students discover the joy of historical research.

The Symbolic Meaning of Money and Property

Kenneth Doyle, Journalism and Mass Communication

Spring 2016  
JOUR 1904, Section 001  
3 credits  
TuTh, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.  
Murphy Hall 25  
East Bank, Minneapolis  
58611

Do you ever wonder why some people run away from money, while most people chase after it? Or why some people could afford better buy their clothes at Savers while others (who maybe can’t afford it) prefer to shop at Gucci or Armani? Or why husbands and wives, and parents and children, so seldom agree on what to do with money? Understanding the symbolic messages money sends to people is the key to learning how to answer these questions. Whether your interest is business, liberal arts, or a particular profession, this seminar ought to be interesting and useful for you.

There’s truth to the rumor that Kenneth Doyle is a maverick. A former monk, retired financial planner and investment advisor, and a licensed financial psychologist, he comes at the meanings of money from many angles. Especially interested in cross-cultural meanings of money, he is president of the Minnesota chapter of the Circumnavigators Club (limited to people who have circumnavigated the globe), and has visited 55 countries.

Linguistics and Biology

Jeanette Gundel, Linguistics

Spring 2016  
LING 1910W, Section 001  
LE: Writing Intensive  
3 credits  
Friday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
East Bank, Minneapolis  
58992

Before the Chomskyan revolution in linguistics in the early 1960s, the connection between linguistics and biology was largely restricted to the study of the anatomical properties of the human vocal tract involved in the articulation of speech sounds. In recent decades, however, the relation between linguistics and biology has begun to focus on the biological basis of human language, including connections between evolution of language and that of the human brain, and possible existence of “language genes.” In this seminar, we will examine the connection and relationship between linguistics and biology over time, with specific focus on how this reflects development of the field of linguistics as well as more generally the nature of interdisciplinarity.

Jeanette Gundel has been teaching linguistics at the University of Minnesota for over 30 years. She has always been interested in how language interacts with other cognitive systems and in its biological basis. She has published over 60 articles and currently serves as director of the Institute of Linguistics and associate director of the Center for Cognitive Sciences.
The Color of Music

Gabriela Currie, Music

Spring 2016
MUS 1905
3 credits
West Bank, Minneapolis

How are sounds depicted? How are colors sounded? How do the worlds of music and fine arts intersect and construct meaning that is both specific to each and shared by both? How does each help us experience the world around us in different yet complementary ways? In this seminar you are invited to join me in a semester-long journey which seeks some answers to these questions through immersion in the sounds, shapes, and colors of Western European art across many centuries. We will be looking at art and listening to music, while learning how to express what we perceive to be interesting, beautiful, and meaningful about their relationship and our reaction to them.

The sounds and sights of cultures around the world have always been one of Gabriela Currie's passions. In her journeys of discovery, she seeks to experience them first-hand or mediated through modern technology. In particular, both as a scholar and as a human being, she wants to understand how these different modes of expression intersect and permeate our lives with meaning. She believes this makes life as fascinating as it makes it exciting, and she invites her students to share in that thrill of discovery.

Violence Against Women in Opera

David Walsh, Music

Spring 2016
MUS 1905
3 credits
West Bank, Minneapolis

In this seminar we will combine lecture, discussion, listening, and viewing of opera productions which depict different aspects of "violence" against women. We will utilize six well-known operas from a wide variety of periods and styles to illuminate how opera is uniquely suited to addressing this particular issue.

David Walsh was born and educated in Toronto, Canada. Although his initial degree was in political science and economics, he soon gravitated towards theatre and music, landing finally in the realm of opera. It became his passion, and his profession and has taken him to many countries. The capacity of opera, this all-encompassing performance art form, to evoke the most powerful human emotions in audiences and performers alike is what has always fascinated him and drawn him to make opera the focus of his life!

Is Truth Relative?

David Taylor, Philosophy

Spring 2016
PHIL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
WF, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis 59880

As human beings, we're constantly asking questions, engaging in debates, and working through disagreements. We do this in politics and science, and we do it when we discuss the aesthetic value of a work of art or debate the moral implications of a public policy. But have you ever suspected that, for at least some of these questions that we ask and argue over, there just aren't any objective or absolute answers? Have you ever thought that certain "truths" are relative to a person, culture, or perspective? Suppose we disagree about whether the death penalty is morally wrong, or about whether Radiohead is a better band than The Beatles. Is one of us right and the other wrong? Or is each of us right relative to his/her own "perspective?"

Could the facts about biology or physics be relative too? Could all truth be relative or subjective? (Does that idea even make sense???) In this seminar, we will consider these and related questions by discussing philosophical work on the nature of truth, objectivity, ethics, and science.

David Taylor grew up outside of Boston, went to graduate school in California, and now has settled right in the middle, in Minneapolis and at the U. His work in philosophy focuses primarily on the nature of language and how it is used to represent the world around us. Outside of philosophy, David has a passion for all things music—playing, listening, and discussing. He played electric bass in variety of bands for many years, but has recently been focusing on singing and writing songs along with his acoustic guitar.

Amadeus: In Search of Mozart

Michael Kac, Philosophy

Spring 2016
PHIL 1910W, Section 001
3 credits
Friday, 1:25 – 3:55 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis 67354

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the greatest composers in the Western classical canon. He is also the one who seems to have the strongest hold on the modern imagination. This seminar will explore Mozart's life and music through both listening and viewing. Why should anyone today care about music by someone who lived more than 200 years ago? Part of the answer is that this music, like the plays of Shakespeare and the paintings of Rembrandt, is of such greatness and power that every age since has found something in it to value. Mozart is also an intriguing figure for other reasons. What we know about his personality seems wildly at odds with the sublime character of his music. The music itself presents us with a mystery: much of it is so lighthearted that one wonders how it manages to be so profound at the same time. No prior knowledge about music is required — just an open mind.

Michael Kac, professor of philosophy and linguistics, is a musician and composer with extensive experience in both the classical and popular fields. From 1967-69 he played electric harpsichord with the rock band Mandrake Memorial, with whom he recorded two albums. More recently, he spent a number of years as part of a duo with guitarist Linda Cohen performing music in an eclectic blend of styles. He also performs regularly on the Twin Cities folk-music circuit.
**Conquest of Cold**

Allen Goldman, Physics and Astronomy

Spring 2016

PHYS 1905

2 credits

East Bank, Minneapolis

The mastery of cold has yielded innumerable advances, from the development of refrigeration and air conditioning to phenomenal leaps in superconductivity and subatomic research. The integration of ultra-cold research with quantum theory was a major accomplishment of 20th century physics. This seminar will examine methods of scientific thought and experimentation that led us to understand thermodynamics, the scientific discipline that developed hand in hand with the major technologies that involve cold. The latter include refrigeration, frozen foods preparation, air conditioning, and the handling of liquefied gases (currently a $10 billion industry). Modern scientific developments that will be discussed include superconductors and new states of matter, such as the Quantum Hall liquids and Bose-Einstein condensates, all of which have resulted in Nobel Prizes in physics for their discoverers. Upon completion of this seminar you will have some understanding of the laws of thermodynamics, you will know what entropy is, and you will appreciate the reality that Minnesota winters are not all that cold on an absolute scale.

Allen Goldman served as the head of the School of Physics and Astronomy from 1996-2009. His research is in the area of experimental condensed matter physics. The specific work on superconductivity involves the application of quantum mechanics to macroscopic systems.

**Aurora: From Myths to Modern Science**

Cynthia Cattell, Physics and Astronomy

Spring 2016

PHYS 1905

2 credits

East Bank, Minneapolis

The aurora, or northern lights, have long fascinated humans. We now know that aurora occur on many other planets, including Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus. We will examine the myths from both northern and southern hemisphere that were devised to explain this beautiful natural phenomenon. The development of our scientific understanding of the aurora is littered with completely incorrect explanations by prominent scientists. It is only with the new measurements made after the space age that we have finally begun to understand the aurora – both on the Earth and on other planets. If the space weather cooperates, we will try to observe the aurora.

Cynthia Cattell is a professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy. She first saw the aurora on a climbing expedition in Alaska, as a college freshman. Little did she know at that time that the study of the physics of the aurora would become the topic of her doctoral dissertation, and the research of some of her students and postdocs.

**Nanotechnology**

Eric Ganz, Physics and Astronomy

Spring 2016

PHYS 1905

2 credits

East Bank, Minneapolis

We will discuss nanoscale imaging, nanomaterials for engineering, nanofabrication for electronics, manipulation of atoms and molecules, nanomotors, sensors, computer simulations, molecular nanotechnology, molecular self-assembly, nano-optics, nanobiotechnology, and nanomedicine.

Erin Ganz is a solid state physicist working in computational simulations of nanoscale materials.

**How Common is Extraterrestrial Life?**

J. Woods Halley, Physics and Astronomy

Spring 2016

PHYS 1910W, Section 001

LE: Writing Intensive

2 credits

TuTh, 12:20 – 1:10 p.m.

East Bank, Minneapolis

55397

This seminar will study the various scientific issues that arise in considering the question of whether extraterrestrial life is likely to exist in our galaxy and whether humans are likely to detect it. Following a monograph by the instructor supplemented by readings by experts on various aspects of the question, we will analyze the various factors in the Drake equation, which provides a model for estimating the number of civilizations in the galaxy. Estimates of these factors involve huge uncertainties, but something definite can be said about most of them. The discussion ranges over a great many disciplines, including physics, astronomy, biology, chemistry, and psychology. We will briefly discuss whether UFOs provide evidence that extraterrestrials have been observed. This will occasion a discussion of what constitutes scientific evidence.

J. Woods Halley teaches physics courses at all levels and directs research programs in low temperature and chemical physics. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, as well as a member of the University of Minnesota graduate faculties of Physics and Materials Science.
From Rio to the Rainforest: Brazil’s Phenomenal Fiction

Sophia Beal, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Spring 2016
PORT 1904, Section 001
LE: Global Perspectives
3 credits
TuTh, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
67781

This seminar introduces students to Brazil’s finest fiction writers through short stories. In the stories, we will meet a bureaucrat who turns into a filing cabinet, a man who lives in a canoe, another who marries a corpse, a ghost with a penchant for soccer, an inept thief, a savvy fortune teller, various unfaithful wives, and the narrators who bring them to life. Students will engage in many hands-on activities — performing scenes, writing their own fiction in the style of a particular author, connecting characters’ experiences to their own lives—to engage deeply with the fiction. Through stories, we will embark on a virtual tour of all corners of Brazil, including the largest cities (Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo), the rainforest, the backlands, and tropical islands. The seminar also will enhance students’ understanding of how and why to write critically about fiction. This seminar will be particularly interesting for students considering studying the Portuguese language and/or majoring in Spanish and Portuguese.

When Sophia Beal was a college freshman, she took her first Portuguese language course, which inspired her to study abroad in Rio de Janeiro and take every course her college offered about Brazilian culture. A love of Brazil’s stellar and relatively unknown fiction transformed her into a so-called Brazil Nut in college and motivated her to pursue a career in Brazilian studies. She hopes the freshmen in her seminar—as they analyze, act out, unpack, and interrogate Brazilian short stories—will become equally as nuts about Brazil’s phenomenal fiction.

Freedom, Race, and Criminal Justice in Our Campus Community

K.C. Harrison, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning

Spring 2016
PSTL 1907W, Section 001
LE: Diversity and Social Justice in the United States, Writing Intensive
3 credits
MW, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
67640

From the time of the nation’s founding on the premise that “all men are created equal”—while excluding African Americans, American Indians, and other people of color from the rights of citizenship—the relationship between race and freedom in the United States has been complex and contradictory. In this seminar, we will explore the experience of incarceration from the perspectives of a diverse array of 20th century American authors including Angela Davis, Ernest Gaines, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Mitsuye Yamada, Luis Valdez, Moustafa Bayoumi, and Michelle Alexander. We will engage with the origins of racial thought and the impact of social constructions of race on historical and contemporary events such as Jim Crow, the Japanese Internment, the War on Drugs, and the War on Terror.

K.C. Harrison teaches American and global literature in addition to interdisciplinary first-year experience courses. Her research addresses the use of audiobooks and podcast technology in the classroom. Her interest in literatures of immigration and global perspectives intersects productively with her work in the classroom emphasizing the power of multiple voices in a collaborative learning environment.
Reflections of Justice: Images of the Law in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture

Gary Peter, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning

Spring 2016  
PSTL 1908W, Section 001  
LE: Civic Life and Ethics, Writing Intensive  
3 credits  
MW, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.  
East Bank, Minneapolis  
67639

This writing-intensive freshman seminar will explore the treatment of legal themes in films, literary texts, and popular culture. We will look at the law through stories, cinema, television, and other mediums to consider the following questions: Do these portrayals of “the law” enhance or inhibit our understanding of how the law “works” in our everyday lives, thus impacting our participation as citizens? Do literature, film, and other media accurately reflect both our legal system and how lawyers are trained and the work that they do, or do they rely upon outdated, stereotypical, or sensationalized portrayals? We will also consider whether literature, film, and popular culture can actually be useful in helping us better comprehend the complexities and ethics of the law in all of its often-frustrating ambiguity.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in research, analysis, oral communication, and creativity through writing formal papers, participating in and leading class discussions, making presentations, writing stories and poems, and completing a group project.

Gary Peter has been teaching at the University of Minnesota since 2002. Before coming to the university, he worked as a lawyer in private practice and in the legal publishing industry. He earned his undergraduate degree in journalism and social work from the University of St. Thomas, a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence College. He has received fellowships for his writing from the McKnight and Jerome Foundations, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Loft Literary Center. He has also been an artist in residence at the Ragdale Foundation, the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Hambidge Center, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and at the Arte Studio Ginestrelle in Assisi, Italy.

The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction

Murray Jensen, Postsecondary Teaching and Learning

Spring 2016  
PSTL 1942, Section 001  
LE: Technology and Society  
3 credits  
MW, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
East Bank, Minneapolis  
67638

In this seminar, students will read, discuss, debate, and generally engage with a myriad of issues surrounding the science of genetics and the application of revolutionary technologies to human reproduction. Students will explore topics and controversies relating to the past, present, and future of human sexual activity and human reproduction, and how reproductive technologies (such as in vitro fertilization) have helped shape our modern society. Through the use of both fiction and non-fiction literature, students will learn the details of current scientific breakthroughs such as “designer babies.” This seminar aims to engage students in an exploration of their personal beliefs about the roles of science, the government, and also religious institutions on human reproductive rights.

Murray Jensen is a Horace T. Morse Distinguished Teaching Professor of Biological Sciences in the College of Education and Human Development. His teaching areas include entry-level biology and human anatomy and physiology, and graduate level courses in STEM teaching and learning. Jensen’s research areas focus on developing teaching strategies within active learning environments, and in 2007 he earned the Society for College Science Teacher’s Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award.
Before they even learn to talk, infants use social communication such as gestures, facial expressions, and eye contact to communicate. As children develop, they learn the complex social rules of conversations and peer interactions. Adults use social communication every day to interact at home and in the workplace. Social communication describes the way that we use language and other communication behaviors (like body language, touch, or pauses) to convey messages. For people who have impaired social communication – for example, due to autism spectrum disorder or traumatic brain injury – deficits in social communication can affect their ability to learn, make friends, or get a job. This seminar will provide an understanding of the wide range of social communication behaviors and how they are affected by age, gender, and culture. Students will be introduced to disorders of social communication and learn about how speech-language pathologists and other professionals evaluate and treat social communication impairments.

Sheri Stronach has always been interested in the intersection between culture and communication. Her current research focuses on two main areas: early social communication development across cultures and improving early identification and treatment of autism spectrum disorder. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on various aspects of speech-language pathology as an assistant professor in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences and leads the department’s Bilingual and Multicultural Emphasis Program.

This course is designed to explore the impact of sport throughout the world. Sport has far-reaching effects off the field, and this course will pay attention to the political, economic, and social impact of sport, with a specific focus on sport evangelism – the spreading of Western values and ideals in sport and the global use of sport to promote political and religious ideologies. Specific issues such as Major League Baseball Academies in the Dominican Republic, the global power of FIFA, the Vatican and the United Nations involvement in sport, the historical and ideological role of religion in sport, and the global movement of empowerment and education of youth development through sport will be explored. Overall, this course is designed to provide students with a broad global perspective of the winners and losers in sport.

As a sport scholar, former coach, athletic director and life-long athlete, Jo Ann Buysse has learned the value and significance of sport in our society and the benefits of sport and physical activity. She enjoys the opportunity that she has at the university to engage students in the study of socio-cultural, ethical, and international issues related to sport and society. She also enjoys the opportunity to engage in critical thinking and discussion about how we might change sport in ways that enhance opportunities for positive growth and development of all individuals in socially responsible ways.
# Freshman Seminar Notes

Use this worksheet to track the seminars you are interested in taking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Course #</th>
<th># of Credits</th>
<th>LE</th>
<th>WI</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Page #</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homers' &quot;Odyssey&quot;</td>
<td>26016</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CL/E</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>MW 9:45-11:00</td>
<td>21</td>
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</table>
The photo above, along with all of the photos in this book, is part of a student initiative called the First-Year Photo Project. Throughout their first year, the project participants take images explaining their view of transitional issues facing first-year students at different times.

Since 2004 the First-Year Photo Project has worked to bring together a small group of students during their first year of college to photograph their experiences as they transition into the University of Minnesota community.

To learn more, visit www.ofyp.umn.edu/photoproject.