Dear First-Year Student:

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. 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 want, what you will 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 new students. 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 15–20 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 count as an Honors experience.

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

Laura Coffin Koch
Associate Vice Provost for First-Year Programs
Freshmen just like you!

This photo, along with all of the photos in this book, is part of the First Year Photo Project. The First-Year Photo Project is a student initiative that brought together 12 freshmen in the Class of 2011 to photograph their experiences as they transitioned into the University of Minnesota community.

To learn more, visit www.ofyp.umn.edu/photoproject.
**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 the 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 yourself 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 that 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

**How to Search Online for Freshman Seminars**

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

1. Visit onestop.umn.edu, and select “Class Search” under Quick Links
2. Enter Search Criteria:
   - Select the term (Fall or Spring)
   - Under “Sections” select “All sections”
   - Under “Class title” enter “Freshman Seminars”
3. Hit the “Search” button

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

**Important Web Sites**

Freshman Seminars: www.ofyp.umn.edu/freshsem
Orientation & First-Year Programs: www.ofyp.umn.edu
One Stop Student Services: www.onestop.umn.edu
MyU Web Portal: www.myu.umn.edu
Welcome Week: www.welcomeweek.umn.edu
## Seminars by Liberal Education Requirements

### Citizenship and Public Ethics

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Genes R’ Us: Social and Historical Issues in the Age of the New Genetics</td>
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<td>CI</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Critical Issues and Controversies in Elementary Education</td>
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<td>MUS</td>
<td>1908W</td>
<td>Music in Nazi Germany</td>
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<td>Constitutional Meanings: From the Founders to the MySpace Generation</td>
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<td>PSTL</td>
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<td>The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction*</td>
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<td>WRIT</td>
<td>1908W</td>
<td>What is College?: The Past, Present, and Future of Universities</td>
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<td>In Pursuit of Fairness: The History of Affirmative Action in 20th Century America</td>
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<td>American Indian Ways of Knowing the Environmental*</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>The Experience of Aging in Literature and the Arts</td>
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<td>1907W</td>
<td>Exploring Diversity through a Popular Culture Lens†</td>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>United States Latino Theater</td>
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### Environment

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<td>Antioxidants: How Do They Protect Your Food and Your Body?</td>
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<td>Human Impact on the Environment</td>
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<td>The Omnivore’s Dilemma – Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts of Human Food Choices</td>
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<td>FR</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Recreation Trail Design*</td>
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<td>GEO</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Geology of Minnesota</td>
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<td>PSTL</td>
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### International Perspectives

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<td>Japanese Popular Culture and International Law</td>
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<td>India Through Anthropology, Literature, and Film</td>
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<td>Managing Your Decisions</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Risk-E-Business</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Popular Culture and the Evil Empire: Business and the Media*</td>
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<td>CHEM 1910W</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics and Popular Philosophy*</td>
<td>63</td>
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<td>Child Psychologists Confront the Real World*</td>
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<td>The Truth in Fiction</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>Heritage Landscapes: Planning and Design for the World’s Special Places*</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Magic in the Contemporary World</td>
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<td>HIST 1910W</td>
<td>Human Prehistory, from Out of Africa to Agriculture</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>MUS 1908W</td>
<td>Music in Nazi Germany</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>Sounding Off: Studying Sonic Experience</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 1910W</td>
<td>How Common is Extraterrestrial Life?</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>PSTL 1906W</td>
<td>Water Everywhere: Investigating and Protecting Our Life Source*</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Exploring Diversity through a Popular Culture Lens†</td>
<td>51/70</td>
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<td>Movies and Madness: Media Portrayals of Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>Psychopaths and Serial Killers</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>SPAN 1907W</td>
<td>Truth, Authority, and Scandal in “Minority” Literature</td>
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<td>Theatre: Entertainment With Attitude†</td>
<td>55/74</td>
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<td>WRIT 1908W</td>
<td>What is College?: The Past, Present, and Future of Universities</td>
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*Spring 2009 seminar

†Offered in Fall & Spring
## Seminars by Interest Area

### Arts

<table>
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<td>Close Encounters of the Aesthetic Kind: Masterpieces of Early Modern Arts in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts</td>
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<td>Visual Art in the Twin Cities</td>
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<td>Photographing and the University Community</td>
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<td>DES</td>
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<td>Storytelling and Narrative</td>
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<td>DES</td>
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<td>Printing for Designers</td>
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<td>Heritage Landscapes: Planning and Design for the World’s Special Places*</td>
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<td>What Music Is: Its Meaning, Reality, Communication, and Embodiment</td>
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<td>Striving to be a Creative Leader</td>
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<td>Music in Nazi Germany</td>
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<td>Sounding Off: Studying Sonic Experience</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Amadeus: In Search of Mozart</td>
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<td>SW</td>
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<td>Images of Youth</td>
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### Biological and Environmental Sciences

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<td>A Novel Environment – Environmental Topics Explored Through Popular Literature</td>
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<td>Diving Physiology and Underwater Naturalist</td>
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<td>Happy in Hell: Microbes Thriving at Extremes</td>
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<td>Genomics: Applications in Biomedical Science and Biotechnology†</td>
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<td>Biotech for Fun and Profit</td>
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<td>Cloning, Politics, and Religion</td>
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<td>CSI Minnesota: Biologists Look at Forensic Science</td>
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<td>Darwin is Everywhere: Applications and Implications of Evolution</td>
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<td>Understanding the Evolution-Creationism Controversy</td>
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<td>What Sex Should I Be?</td>
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<td>Antioxidants: How Do They Protect Your Food and Your Body?</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>Writing from Plow to Plate: Sustainable Food Narratives in the U.S.</td>
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<td>Insects and Us: The Love-Hate Bond Between Humans and Bugs*</td>
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<td>The Omnivore's Dilemma – Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts of Human Food Choices</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSTL</td>
<td>1906W</td>
<td>Water Everywhere: Investigating and Protecting Our Life Source*</td>
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* Indicates seminar is offered at an additional campus location.
† Indicates seminar is offered off-campus.
Seminars by Interest Area, continued

Business

APEC 1905 The “Ordinary Business of Life” – Issues in Business, Government, and Macroeconomics ................................................................. 14
BA 1905 Internet Search Economics, Google, and New Business* .................................................. 58
BA 1905 Risk-E-Business ................................................................. 17
BA 1910W Managing Your Decisions ................................................................. 18
BA 1910W Popular Culture and the Evil Empire: Business and the Media* .................................................. 59
ECON 1905 Strategic Thinking and Social Interaction ................................................................. 34
ECON 1905 Inequality ................................................................. 34
ECON 1905 Fair Play in the Business World ................................................................. 35
ECON 1905 Game Theory and Human Nature* ................................................................. 64
ESPM 1901 The Omnivore’s Dilemma – Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts of Human Food Choices ................................................................. 38

Culture & People

AAS 1902 Immigrant Acts: Transforming Asian America ................................................................. 9
AMIN 1905 After Wounded Knee: American Indians Since 1900 .................................................. 11
ANTH 1907W Warfare and Human Evolution ................................................................. 13
ANTH 1908W Genes R’ Us: Social and Historical Issues in the Age of the New Genetics ................................................................. 12
CFAN 1902 Ways of Knowing and Science ................................................................. 25
CLA 1905 Ahead of the Class: Seven Secrets for Becoming Your Own Teacher .................................................. 29
COMM 1904 Communication Across Cultures ................................................................. 30
CPSY 1904 Cross-Cultural Studies of Children ................................................................. 31
DES 1905 American Houses: Past Trends, Future Visions* .................................................. 64
GLOS 1909W Magic in the Contemporary World* ................................................................. 67
GWSS 1904 Stories and Struggles ................................................................. 40
HIST 1910W Human Prehistory, from Out of Africa to Agriculture .................................................. 41
JOUR 1905 Achieving Our Country: The African American Press, American Journalism, and the Civil Rights Movement ................................................................. 42
JOUR 1905 Social Media? Mass Media, Social Networks, and the Internet .................................................. 67
LING 1904 Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Language Endangerment, Death, and Revitalization ................................................................. 43
PSTL 1902 The Experience of Aging in Literature and the Arts .................................................. 50
PSTL 1907W Exploring Diversity through a Popular Culture Lens .................................................. 51
PSTL 1904 Unlike Terms: Charting Pathways to Global Development* .................................................. 69
SPAN 1902 United States Latino Theater ................................................................. 54
SPAN 1907W Truth, Authority, and Scandal in “Minority” Literature .................................................. 54
SW 1905 High School: Moments, Memories and Meanings* .................................................. 72
### Humanities

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Socrates and Philosophy</td>
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### Politics and Government

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<td>1903</td>
<td>Constitutional Meanings: From the Founders to the MySpace Generation</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Finding Puzzles and Explanations in Everyday Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSTL</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRIT</td>
<td>1908W</td>
<td>What is College?: The Past, Present, and Future of Universities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Seminars by Interest Area, continued

### Psychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPSY</td>
<td>1910W</td>
<td>Child Psychologists Confront the Real World*</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSY</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Chess and 21st Century Skills</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>What is the Human Mind?</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Psychology of Eating and Body Image</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>1910W</td>
<td>Psychopaths and Serial Killers</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>The Truth About High Stakes Testing*</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Science and Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEM</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Near-Space – Approaching the Final Frontier for Cheap</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Of Rock, Fire and Ice: Mars, Visions for Explorations</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>“Backyard” Cosmic Catastrophes</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Cosmic Catastrophes*</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Nothing*</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>The Nature of Research Life: Is It For You?</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Success on the Road to Graduate Programs in Science</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFAN</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Ways of Knowing and Science</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>My Other Car is a Bicycle†</td>
<td>26/61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Solar Energy and the Environment†</td>
<td>27/61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Scientific Progress: Dynamics and Impacts on Practitioners,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Popular Culture, and Policy†</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Recycling in the Twin Cities†</td>
<td>28/62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM</td>
<td>1910W</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics and Popular Philosophy*</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCI</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>The Third Way of Science: Computer Simulation</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOFT</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>After the Big Bang</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>What Everything is Made Of</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics for Everyone</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>How Things Work</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>How Common is Extraterrestrial Life?</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Win Friends and Influence People with Physics*</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Spring 2009 seminar

†Offered in Fall & Spring
In this seminar we will read novels and watch film and anime with an eye toward exploring the historical relationship between international law, Japanese society and popular culture. This will involve observing connections between Japan’s shifting international position, Japanese military power, and the direction of its popular culture. In addition to literature, song, film, and anime, we will read Japanese discussions of international law in various historical periods and theoretical discussions of international law and imperialism important today, including the work of Carl Schmitt, Giorgio Agamben, and Antony Anghie.

Mark Anderson specializes in Japanese literature, film studies, gender, postcolonialism, science and technology; and Marxism.
Immigrant Acts: Transforming Asian America

Yuichiro Onishi, African American & African Studies

Fall 2008
AAS 1902, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
58057

Although they are citizens, Asian Americans are often seen as foreigners. How might we account for such an enduring misunderstanding? Is it mere ignorance or a manifestation of personal prejudice? We begin by establishing that the study of the past matters in making sense of this problem of misrepresentation. We will search for causality at the intersection of histories of Asian immigration and exclusion; and of wars, imperialism, and colonialism in Asia involving U.S., Japanese, and European empires—using various analytical strategies to understand why Asian immigrants, refugees and Asian Americans are seen as perpetual foreigners. Our reason for exploring the historical roots of misrepresentation is to unearth the agency of Asian Americans. We will explore how their critical acts of self-representation and their cultural forms such as novels, memoirs, and poems help generate new ways of thinking about what it means to be Asian American.

Born in Japan and raised in Tokyo and the suburbs of New York and Chicago, Yuichiro Onishi is interested in bringing together academic fields that are not commonly studied in conjunction. He frames his approaches to teaching and research at the intersection of African American studies, Asian American studies, and the historical study of U.S. and Japanese imperialism and colonialism.
Near-Space: Approaching the Final Frontier for Cheap

James Flaten, Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics

Fall 2008
AEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Thursday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
Akerman Hall 230, East Bank, Minneapolis 58006

Outer space, sometimes called the Final Frontier, has always been difficult to reach due to the tremendous expense of rocket launches and the limited number of launch opportunities. In this hands-on course we will design and build mini-spacecraft and use (relatively) inexpensive high-altitude helium balloons to launch them into “near-space” – the upper reaches of the atmosphere which has many of the same physical properties as outer space. The launch and recovery will be a required class activity on a Saturday in late October or early November. The remainder of the semester will involve data analysis from our balloon mission as well as lectures, discussions, and activities associated with full-fledged spaceflight, including the scientific accomplishments and engineering challenges of past, current, and future missions.

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. His academic background is actually in experimental physics and he has taught many physics and astronomy classes in the past. He enjoys using ballooning as a low-cost means of giving students hands-on experience building and flying space hardware.

Early Cinema: Story and Spectacle

Jason McGrath, Asian Languages & Literatures

Fall 2008
ALL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MWF, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
Wednesday, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Folwell Hall 218, East Bank, Minneapolis 52672

In the years immediately following the invention of the moving picture in the late nineteenth century, thousands of films were made on a wide range of subjects. These films did not usually tell stories; rather, they simply showed things to the audience, from the mundane to the strange, and part of the attraction was the foregrounding of the cinematic apparatus itself, the novelty of a new technology. By the 1920s, the feature-length narrative film had come into its own, resulting in many classics of silent cinema that are counted among the most masterful films ever made.

This seminar will explore the world of early film: on the one hand, the capacity of cinema to deliver pure visual spectacle to an (in)credulous audience fascinated by the new technology; and on the other hand, the developing ability of cinema to convey complex stories that evolve over time and follow a narrative arc, causing the spectator to suspend disbelief, “forget” film’s illusory nature, and become willingly absorbed in the story world.

Jason McGrath’s research specialty is modern Chinese film, literature, and culture. He teaches classes in modern and contemporary Chinese literature and culture, Chinese and Hong Kong film, and themes in cinema including the nation, revolution, and gender and sexuality.
After Wounded Knee: American Indians Since 1900

Brenda Child, American Indian Studies

Fall 2008
AMIN 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Tuesday, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57981

The events of December 1890 have been written as the final chapter of American Indian history. By 1890, most American Indians were living on reservations and some had witnessed the end of warfare between tribes and the United States. This seminar will consider the important years in American Indian history after Wounded Knee through analysis of the assimilation movement, the policy of land allotment, boarding school experiences, Native economies and cultures, World War II, urbanization, political activism, the struggle for treaty rights, art and other cultural expressions, and current issues in tribal communities. Through reading, lectures, documentary films, discussions, and a visit to the Minnesota History Center, students will be introduced to the idea that Indian history must be presented as a national and as a regional and local story. The seminar will emphasize changes in the family, gender roles, community life and health and environment during the past century and dispels the myth that Indian history ends with the nineteenth century.

Brenda J. Child is an American historian who specializes in American Indian history. She is the author of Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940, a study of Indian assimilation and government schooling.

Japanese Popular Culture and International Law

Mark Anderson, Asian Languages & Literatures

Fall 2008
ALL 1909W, Section 001
LE: International Perspective, Writing Intensive
3 credits
MWF 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
52672

In this seminar we will read novels and watch film and anime with an eye toward exploring the historical relationship between international law, Japanese society and popular culture. This will involve observing connections between Japan's shifting international position, Japanese military power, and the direction of its popular culture. In addition to literature, song, film, and anime, we will read Japanese discussions of international law in various historical periods and theoretical discussions of international law and imperialism important today, including the work of Carl Schmitt, Giorgio Agamben, and Antony Anghie.

Mark Anderson specializes in Japanese literature, film studies, gender, postcolonialism, science and technology; and Marxism.

Freshman Seminars 2008-2009
Jennifer Pierce, American Studies

Fall 2008
AMST 1902, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity
3 credits
Thursday, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57772

Many Americans think that affirmative action first emerged in the 1970s. However, its origins can be traced to the 1930s and President Roosevelt’s New Deal policy agenda. This seminar will follow the trajectory of these early policy formations through WWII to the influential Brown vs. Board of Education decision which ruled the “separate but equal” doctrine unconstitutional. To understand the consequences of the Brown decision, we will focus on the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1958 from the perspective of the white and black students who attended it at the time. Next, we move to the post-civil rights era and examine the debates about affirmative action in legal terms, media accounts, scholarly discussions, and within American popular culture during this time period. Finally we consider the future of this controversial social policy.

Jennifer Pierce’s research focuses on how American workplaces structure gender and racial inequalities through seemingly benign and neutral practices and how, in turn, workers respond to them. Her current research focuses on the different kinds of stories the media, popular films, and individual women and men tell about affirmative action in order to understand how Americans make sense of race and gender inequality in the contemporary United States.

Karen-Sue Taussig, Anthropology

Fall 2008
ANTH 1908W, Section 003
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Monday, 10:10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Blegen Hall 430, West Bank, Minneapolis
58137

In this seminar we will explore the development of genetics in the 20th century in its social and historical contexts. The seminar introduces the idea that the current explosion of molecular knowledge is creating what has been called “geneticization,” a world view in which human diversity is increasingly ascribed to genetic causality and the body, health, and illness are conceptualized in terms of genetics. Students will critically engage with contemporary genetic ideas and practices and explore how a range of scholars are grappling with the issues raised by this new knowledge. Such issues include aspects of social life such as kinship, health care, reproduction, disease/disorder, normalcy, and personhood and how these are in the process of being reshaped as knowledge and practices associated with genetics progress.

Karen-Sue Taussig is one of a growing number of anthropologists working in the new field of the Anthropology of Science and she holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Anthropology and Medicine. Her research and teaching examine the social and cultural implications of new genetic knowledge. Her work specifically focuses on the ways in which ordinary people encounter, learn about, and develop understandings of the new knowledge associated with advances in molecular genetic biology.
In this seminar, we will read, discuss and analyze three kinds of representations of India: anthropological, fictional, and cinematic. Our focus will be on issues of colonialism and the production of knowledge about India (Rudyard Kipling’s *Kim* and Michael Ondaatje’s *The English Patient*), gender and class (Jhumpa Lahiri’s collection of short stories *Interpreter of Maladies*, Thrity Umrigar’s *The Space Between Us*, and short stories by Mahasweta Devi and Rabindranath Tagore), diasporic identities (Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake*), violence carried out in the name of the nation (Bapsi Sidhwa’s *Cracking India*, and short stories by Saadat Hasan Manto), and the nature of stories themselves (Salman Rushdie’s *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*). We will also view films and read scholarly articles by anthropologists and historians, and think carefully and critically about all three of these modes of representing Indian society and the diaspora.

**Gloria Goodwin Raheja** is an anthropologist interested in the politics of cultural production in India, especially with respect to caste, gender, and colonialism. She has conducted extensive field research in rural north India and archival research in India and in the British Library in London. In her work in India and in the U.S., she maintains a focus on the question of how we produce knowledge of Others, and with what political constraints and consequences.

Armed, violent conflict among groups—warfare—is a distinctive and devastating trait of many human societies. The practice of warfare brings together a number of unusual traits of our species, including the ability to cooperate, to discuss plans, and to make and use weapons, which together combine to create immense human suffering. War has long been a central topic for anthropologists, who have raised many questions. Is warfare a human universal? Are there truly peaceful societies? Why does war occur more often at some times and places than others? How, when and why did warfare evolve? What, if anything, does warfare have to do with intergroup aggression in other animals? What role has warfare, or its more primitive precursors, played in the evolution of our species? We will read and discuss classic and recent texts on this broad and often divisive subject.

**Michael Wilson** studies chimpanzees in Tanzania, East Africa. He focuses on aggression and vocal communication in our primate cousins in order to better understand the evolution of such distinctive human traits as warfare and language. In his free time, he plays saxophone and tries to answer his kids’ endless questions about topics ranging from dinosaurs and electricity to the nature of the Tooth Fairy. He was recently awarded a McKnight Land-Grant Professorship.
The “Ordinary Business of Life” – Issues in Business, Government, and Macroeconomics

Gary Cooper, Applied Economics

Fall 2008
APEC 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Monday, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
32460

In this course we will discover, reflect on, and teach ourselves about a selected group of topics in the fields of business management and economics. The first quarter of our meetings will be on business and economic history, and the second quarter of class will analyze “macro” issues related to the domestic and world economies (e.g. economic growth, globalization). The remainder of our time together will be “micro” related. We will solve *The Fatal Equilibrium*, a mystery novel that highlights several basic economic principles and will also investigate the field of business ethics through a series of readings and films.

Students with academic and career interests in business management, economics, global studies, political science, and history will find this seminar to “prime the pump” for further study in advanced-level coursework. Although not an official prerequisite, students will find this seminar complements the content of ApEc or Econ 1101 (Principles of Microeconomics).

**Gary M. Cooper** is the Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor in the Department of Applied Economics and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. He has received university teaching and academic advising awards for his work with students and faculty.

Close Encounters of the Aesthetic Kind: Masterpieces of Early Modern Art in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Steven Ostrow, Art History

Fall 2008
ARTH 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Thursday, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Heller Hall 445,
West Bank, Minneapolis
and 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts
57135

This seminar examines a small handful of “masterpieces” produced by European artists during the 17th and 18th centuries. In contrast to the way these works are traditionally taught (briefly in the context of a lecture), in this seminar each class meeting is devoted to a single work of art, delving into the circumstances behind its creation, the way it was made, and the complex meanings it embodies. In other words, this seminar will engage issues of patronage, production, style and connoisseurship, theory, and interpretation. Works by Artemesia Gentileschi, Pieter Claesz, Gerrit van Honthorst, Rembrandt van Rijn, Nicolas Poussin, Claude Lorrain, Guercino, Gianlorenzo Bernini, Jean-Baptiste Siméon Chardin, and Francisco de Goya are our focus.

**Steven Ostrow** is an art historian and specializes in early modern Italian art, with an emphasis on seventeenth-century Roman painting and sculpture. He views art history as an inherently interdisciplinary field of study, which provides new ways of understanding and interpreting both the past and the present, encourages students to think critically and imaginatively, and helps prepare them to meet the challenges of our evolving visual culture.

University of Minnesota
The Art of Collaboration

Ali Momeni, Art
Guerino Mazzola, Music
Michael Sommers, Theatre Arts & Dance

Fall 2008
ARTS 1905, Section 002
3 credits
Thursday, 1:25 – 4:25 p.m.
Regis Center W257, West Bank, Minneapolis 34696

This introductory course presents the characteristics and the challenges of collaboration through three representative approaches from the visual arts, music, and theater. The course unfolds around concrete problematic situations arising from a collaborative and multimedia-enhanced project.

Ali Momeni studied physics and music and completed his doctoral degree in music composition, improvisation and performance with computers. His interests are in computation and interactivity in the arts, technologically mediated social interaction, gesture to sound/image mappings, kinetic sculpture, and data-driven search and synthesis techniques.

Guerino Mazzola was educated as a mathematician, but also works as a contemporary jazz pianist and composer. Mazzola has also been active in music and science journalism, brain research, and semiotics. His present interest focuses on a theory of the art of collaboration, comprising flow, gestures, and collaboratories.

Michael Sommers has practiced the theatre arts as a designer, director, composer, performer, playwright, and technician. In 2000 he co-founded Open Eye Figure Theatre, whose original work has been produced at the Walker Art Center (Mpls.), in New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Mexico. At the University of Minnesota, Sommers has collaborated with students to create Articulations: An Evening of Student Puppetry (2003), Mississippi Panorama (2006) and the Master and Margarita (2006) with Luverne Seifert from the Theatre Department.
Visual Art in the Twin Cities

Wayne Potratz, Art

Fall 2008
ARTS 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 1:25-- 4:25 p.m.
Regis Center E231, West Bank, Minneapolis
25616

This seminar will explore various manifestations of the visual arts in the Twin Cities area through field trips to various art venues, visits to artists’ studios, hands-on projects, readings, and discussion. We will explore how artists, collectors, curators, museum and gallery personnel and administrators, arts education institutions, critics, and the media relate to produce the vibrant “art scene” that exists in the metropolitan area. Through the texts, the visual art seen at the various venues, and the presentations of the seminar guests, we will also examine the relationship between modernism and post-modernism in contemporary art.

Wayne Potratz is a sculptor whose work in cast bronze and cast iron has been exhibited regionally, nationally, and internationally since 1964. His work is exhibited locally at the Grand Hand Gallery and the Raymond Avenue Gallery. He is the founder of the International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art (the sixth conference will be held in Wales in 2010) and stages the annual Minnesota Iron Pour events in April of each year at the University of Minnesota Sculpture Foundry, Regis Center for Art.

Of Rock, Fire and Ice: Mars, Visions for Explorations

C. Woodward, Astronomy

Fall 2008
AST 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Tuesday, 1:25 – 3:20 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 210, East Bank, Minneapolis
24266

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, Earth, comets, and satellite worlds of the Jovian planets. The necessary conditions for supporting life will also be discussed. Texts include The Real Mars (authored by Michael Hanlon, 2004), Roving Mars (authored by Steve Squyres, 2005) and other directed readings. We will also explore the link between science and science fiction related to our fascination with whether Mars has “alien life forms.”

Charles “Chick” Woodward is an infrared astronomer whose research interests focus on the study of astronomical dust particles produced in the atmospheres of evolved stars, incorporated into proto-planetary disks around young stars, and released from comets in our own Solar System. He is a U.S. Board Member and science advisor to the International Gemini Telescope (twin 8-m telescopes) Project, as well as being a past member of the National Academy of Science, Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics and a member of the international ground-based team participating in supporting the recent NASA Deep Impact mission to comet 9P/Tempel 1.
This seminar will explore how the evolution of bodies in the solar system are affected by cosmic impacts, with special emphasis on how such events affected the biosphere of the Earth. We will discuss the history of the solar system and explore how comets, asteroids, and collisions disturb it. We will also study the nature of scientific discovery by examining views on the great Cretaceous Extinction and 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 currently or in the past. We will also explore links between science and science fiction as seen in popular culture.

Charles “Chick” Woodward is an infrared astronomer whose research interests focus on the study of astronomical dust particles produced in the atmospheres of evolved stars, incorporated into proto-planetary disks around young stars, and released from comets in our own Solar System. He is Board Chair of the International Gemini Telescope (twin 8-m telescopes) Project, as well as being a member of the National Academy of Science, Space Studies Board and a member of the international ground-based team supporting the upcoming NASA LCROSS lunar impact mission.
Managing Your Decisions

Shawn Curley, Information & Decision Sciences

Fall 2008
BA 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
MW, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Carlson School of Management 1-143, West Bank, Minneapolis 38088

In our home life and in our work places, decisions are frequent – both large and small. Yet, surprisingly, we usually devote little or no attention to investigating and improving our decision making. The seminar will focus on some of the common ways that our judgment can be led astray due to the ways we think and process information. Specific practical tools for alleviating these difficulties are examined where applicable. Practical applications of the ideas to personal decisions will be explored, including the use of information, understanding and deciding under uncertainty, and decisions in a business setting.

Shawn Curley’s general area of research is in the psychology of judgment and decision making by individuals. His specific interests include decisions under uncertainty, ethical decisions, the use of information goods (e.g., music, newspapers, etc.), and auction behavior. His teaching interests relate to how decisions are made and to techniques for improving our decisions.

Photographing and the University Community

Robert J. Roon, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, & Biophysics
Alex Lange, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, & Biophysics

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 001
1 credit
Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis 22894

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 student and faculty member will assemble their photographs into a coherent essay. The course will include social themes, and have a strong writing component as well as the obvious focus on photography.

Robert J. 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 eight-year-old grandson. He has been taking photographs for 50 years and in the past few years, he has averaged 20,000 photographs per year.

Alex Lange’s research interests are in the area of liver carbohydrate metabolism as it relates to diabetes. Alex was born in Germany and emigrated to the U.S. with his family at the age of three. He grew up in Maryland and Long Island and attended Cornell University. Ithaca and the Twin Cities have similar weather, so he feels very much at home here.
A Novel Environment – Environmental Topics Explored Through Popular Literature

Deena Wassenberg, Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 002
1 credit
Tuesday, 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57263

In this course we will read excerpts from popular literature, both fiction and non-fiction, that highlight issues of environmental importance including species diversity, environmental policy, human health and pollution. We will critically evaluate the science represented in this literature and explore peer reviewed scientific literature that addresses the same topics.

Deena Wassenberg’s studies have included zoology, conservation and environmental toxicology. She has spent the past year developing and teaching the laboratory portion of the new Foundations of Biology course for biology majors.

What Sex Should I Be?

Jane Phillips, Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 004
1 credit
Tuesday, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
27718

Are you XX or XY? You probably know that I am asking if you are female or male, but the XY genetic system found in humans and most other mammals is not the only way that sex is determined in animals. Some animals develop into females if the temperature is high and others when the temperature is low. Other animals change their sex based on the sex of a nearby potential mate. In fact, some animals change their sex more than once in their lifetimes – a pretty nifty trick! This seminar will explore different sex determination systems, how they work, and how external forces, including estrogen-mimics in our environment, can disrupt these systems. While learning about sex determination, you will also explore many of the resources at the University and elsewhere that will help you become a successful student and a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota.

Jane Phillips is the Coordinator of the Instructional Laboratories and Associate Director of the Biology Program. Jane has taught courses ranging from molecular, cellular, and developmental biology, microbiology, mycology, organismal adaptation and diversity, computing in biology, plant pathology, microbial physiology, and teaching and learning.
The Nature of Research Life: Is It For You?

David Marks, Plant Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 005
3 credits
Monday, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Biosciences Building, St. Paul
27720

This course will begin with formal classroom meetings in which students will meet with researchers from all levels and discuss how and why they ended up in research. Students will participate in a National Science Foundation funded research project and will receive hands on experience in using state of the art techniques to address basic scientific questions concerning Cell Biology.

M. 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.

Happy in Hell: Microbes Thriving at Extremes

Jeffrey Gralnick, Microbiology
Daniel Bond, BioTechnology Institute

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 006
1 credit
Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
St. Paul
27854

It is a microbial world. Bacteria have adapted to life virtually everywhere on our planet. Bacteria and other microbes living in the wildest environments are commonly known as ‘extremophiles.’ Research in this area has led to several groundbreaking discoveries that have impacted biology in profound ways. This research is also driven by our fascination with life on other planets, and has rekindled the possibility that life may exist on nearby planets or moons (e.g. Mars or Europa). We will cover a variety of extreme environments, including; high and low temperature, high and low pH, dry, deep and other strange ecosystems, discuss how bacteria are able to thrive in such environments, and explore the feasibility of detecting life beyond Earth.

Jeffrey Gralnick’s favorite bacterium finds itself in many interesting places, including McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. Years of reading science fiction and playing video games has convinced him that life does indeed exist on other planets.

Daniel Bond uses his favorite bacterium to make electricity from wastewater. No, really, he does.
Genomics: Applications in Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

Perry Hackett, Genetics, Cell Biology & Development

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 007
1 credit
Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
27846

DNA and Genomes are discussed in just about every modern context, from medical science and biotechnology to crime scene investigations, law, insurance policies, and ethics of retooling animal and plant genomes. We will consider interfaces between science, politics, religion and the press. The seminar will begin with some of the recent findings of science and medicine and then consider some ramifications that you will encounter in your daily lives as genomics plays a larger role as applications develop. Students and visitors will discuss a variety of topics including ethics of selection of humans by their genomes, genetic counseling, CSI in Minnesota, the use of DNA profiling in medicine and insurance, and the future of retooling plant and animal genomes to guide future evolution. We will develop personal strategies to evaluate current and future controversies on similar topics.

Perry Hackett is also a co-founder of a biotech startup company, Discovery Genomics, Inc., which was formed to identify genes that might be of use in medicine and to develop new technologies for human gene therapy and animal biotechnology. He is especially interested in conveying to students the awesome possibilities of modern genetics and the importance of seeking data-based answers to the important questions that science is raising.

Biotech for Fun and Profit

Marty Blumenfeld, Genetics, Cell Biology & Development

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 008
1 credit
Monday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
27848

Biotech is the use of technology to manipulate living systems for human benefit. It's a complex and fascinating subject that blends science and technology with a broad range of non-scientific, non-technical human activities. The major focus of biotech is making money. In this seminar, we'll discuss biotech, its profit motives, and its relationships to politics. Topics will include the major areas of biotechnology: health, agriculture and energy, issues related to patents, politics, conflict of interest and how to start a biotech company.

Marty Blumenfeld was the founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Blizzard Genomics, a genomics and proteomics company that existed until 9/11.
Diving Physiology and Underwater Naturalist

Melissa Palmer, Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 009
1 credit
Thursday, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
St. Paul
27850

We will explore the fascinating world of the deep blue sea, with an emphasis on aquatic animal diversity. In this course, we will discuss animal physiology from the perspective of environmental and evolutionary adaptations associated with diving. We will also discuss human physiology in the context of how our bodies deal with the many challenges associated with SCUBA diving. A survey of different major aquatic animal life groupings (and how they interact) will also be discussed, so that you may understand what you observe in the underwater environment on your own diving adventures.

Melissa Palmer teaches General Zoology and Animal Physiology and recently received her degree from the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology here at the University of Minnesota. Melissa is also an avid SCUBA diver.

Cloning, Politics, and Religion

Marty Blumenfeld, Genetics, Cell Biology & Development

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 010
1 credit
Monday, 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
27852

Scientists can clone animals, plants, cells, and DNA. Is this a good thing? In this seminar, we’ll discuss cloning, its benefits, its limitations, and the ethical problems posed by its application to animals and plants in the twenty first century. Topics will include looking at the inherent conflicts between Science, Politics and Religion as illustrated in the work of Galileo, the Scopes Monkey Trial, Lysenko, Global Warming, Intelligent design versus Evolution. The basics of cloning and cashing in on cloning will also be covered in the course.

Marty Blumenfeld was the founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Blizzard Genomics, a genomics and proteomics company that existed until 9/11.
Success on the Road to Graduate Programs in Science

Colin Campbell, Pharmacology
Sehoya Cotner, Genetics, Cell Biology & Development

Fall 2008
BIO 1905, Section 011
2 credits (offered in conjunction with SEAM)
Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
27888

This course is for students who have the academic potential and stated goal to enter graduate or professional programs in science and engineering disciplines. It is required for new freshman participants in the CBS Mathematics and Science ACE (Achieving College Excellence). This course will introduce science as a way of knowing, provide essential information about how to excel in mathematics and science courses, increase self-confidence, and strengthen motivation to excel and introduce minority role models.

Colin Campbell studies the molecular genetics of DNA repair and its relationship to cancer and aging. He is the Director of Graduate Studies for the Pharmacology graduate program, is Associate Director of the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences, teaches courses in Pharmacology and Pharmacogenomics and still finds time for cycling and coaching girls’ soccer.

Sehoya Cotner’s interests are in researching strategies for teaching evolution to non-scientists and engaging students in large-lecture arenas. Currently, she teaches “The Evolution and Biology of Sex,” “General Zoology,” “Biology, Society and the Environment,” “The Nature of Life” and “Teaching in the Biology Laboratory.”

CSI Minnesota: Biologists Look at Forensic Science

Kathryn Hanna, Biology

Fall 2008
BIO 1905, Section 012
2 credits (offered in conjunction with SEAM)
Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
28362

What is forensic science? How is science used to help solve crimes? What are the truths and myths behind forensic science analysis? What are its limits? Does crime scene investigation resemble what one sees on TV? The class will look at DNA fingerprinting, fiber analysis, forensic pathology, anthropology, document analysis, etc., separating fact from fiction. Case studies will be examined where scientific evidence was a deciding factor. Guest speakers will include practicing forensic scientists. The class will also serve as an orientation to the University environment and discuss topics such as academic survival skills.

Kathryn Hanna has worked with many biology undergraduates through the Biology Colloquium Program. She is the faculty advisor for the University’s Forensic Science Club and her interests include everything from microorganisms to art to how universities work.
Darwin is Everywhere:
Applications and Implications of Evolution

Mark Decker, Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 013
1 credit
Tuesday, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
38446

“Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution.” Theodosius Dobzhansky

Charles Darwin has been dead for well over a hundred years and his most influential book, On the Origin of Species, was first published 146 years ago. Wow, evolutionary biology is really old! Surely it’s no longer important, right? Au contraire! As the Dobzhansky quote above indicates, evolution is the central unifying principle in biology and is influential not only throughout biology but also in disciplines that overlap or border on biology. In this seminar we will explore how an evolution-centered perspective is beneficial (required!??) for an adequate understanding of a variety of topics (e.g., infectious diseases, human behavior, medicine, science education and scientific literacy, conservation, philosophy) and how principles in evolutionary biology are being applied in these disparate areas.

Mark Decker is an evolutionary biologist by training, and is fortunate to be able to spend most of his professional time on his true passion, teaching. He is a strong advocate for increasing science literacy in general and understanding of evolution in particular.

Understanding the Evolution-Creationism Controversy

Randy Moore, Biology

Fall 2008
BIOL 1905, Section 014
1 credit
Thursday, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
38448

This course has two goals: 1) to help you succeed at the University of Minnesota, and 2) to help you develop your own understanding and appreciation of the evolution-creationism controversy. We’ll discuss the many aspects of this controversy, including its history, legacy, relevance, and key people. We will also discuss a variety of issues related to the controversy, including those involving court decisions, public opinion, and related issues (e.g., racism, politics, etc.). Many people are emotional and opinionated about the evolution-creationism controversy. Although the focus of this course is not on opinions, we will talk about why so many people feel strongly about these issues, and why the controversy persists. Each week we will also talk about concerns and/or questions you have about life at the University. Although I can’t fix your parking tickets, I can tell you about what you’ll need to do to succeed here.

Randy Moore is a H.T. Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor who has written many papers and books about the evolution-creationism controversy. Randy uses a variety of teaching styles and other approaches (e.g., field trips) to learning.
Every human society has developed its own knowledge of food and health relationships. But until very recently, scientific researchers at universities have paid little attention to this knowledge, in part because it has been dismissed as “unscientific”. Most professional scientists do not accept indigenous, ancestral or ancient knowledge systems as valid. Diverse food practices and understandings may be acknowledged as cultural artifacts, but are seldom seen by scientists as legitimate on their own merit.

In this seminar, we will attempt to take a more culturally competent “inside look” at diverse ways of knowing. By direct experience and involvement with another culture, we come to recognize their cultural worldview and its way of seeing and making sense of the world. In this way, you will encounter different ways of knowing. We will focus specifically on different cultural orientations to understanding food and health relationships. 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.
Antioxidants: How Do They Protect Your Food and Your Body?

A. Saari Csallany, Food Science & Nutrition

Fall 2008
CFAN 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.
St. Paul
57095

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.

My Other Car is a Bicycle

R. Lee Penn, Chemistry

Fall 2008
CHEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Monday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 121, East Bank, Minneapolis
32808

This seminar will be devoted to researching bicycling as a viable alternative to car-based transportation. We will examine the environmental impacts of choosing cars for transportation, compare the energy required to produce and maintain cars and bicycles, compare the energy required to move people by various modes of transportation, research how city planning limits options for non-car-based transportation, and compare bike movements and cultures in cities worldwide, including the twin cities. We will also learn some basic bike repair and practice urban riding skills. Classes will include field trips (by bike, of course), guest lectures, movies, and more. Each student must have access to a bike during class time.

Lee Penn has been working with nanoparticles since the early 1990s and has a passion for understanding their fundamental formation and growth mechanisms, how they are involved in chemical transformations in environmental systems, and elucidating the link between the physical and chemical properties of nanoparticles. She oversees a research group of five graduate students - all working on various topics involving both synthetic and natural nanoparticles.
The looming environmental crisis or catastrophe from the continuing and excessive consumption of fossil fuel is becoming one of the most significant challenges facing mankind. There is consensus among scientific and technological communities that the only viable alternative on a global scale is to switch from fossil fuel to solar energy. Solar energy is clean and abundant. The power our earth receives from the sun is ten thousand times more than human needs. This seminar series will cover various forms of solar energy, such as solar thermal, photovoltaic, and biofuels. We will address the current state-of-the-art, scientific and technological challenges ahead, and the opportunities a solar energy based economy will generate. We will also discuss the environmental, geopolitical, and societal impacts of a solar-energy economy.

Xiaoyang Zhu’s research interests cover three areas: solar energy conversion, organic electronics, and biochips. In the first two areas, his groups focuses on charge separation and transport at interfaces with an ultimate goal of solving the energy problem. His research in the biochip area has led to the founding of a high tech startup company, MicroSurfaces, Inc.
**Scientific Progress: Dynamics and Impacts on Practitioners, Popular Culture, and Policy**

Chris Cramer, Chemistry

Fall 2008
CHEM 1905, Section 004
2 credits
Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 121, East Bank, Minneapolis
57361

The history of science offers many examples illustrating how messy the actual process of discovery and interpretation can be. This course focuses on particular advances and the individuals who made them and places those discoveries into the context of their time. What prior work led investigators to their new ideas? How were these ideas received by the scientific community initially and to what extent were they modified by the response of other researchers? What was the importance of multidisciplinary perspective in the particular advance? What kind of politics affected the scientists and their ability to carry out research and interpret the results? Each class will focus on discussion of weekly readings, current scientific topics from popular media, and more.

**Chris Cramer’s** professional career began with four years of service as an active-duty officer in the United States Army, including a tour in Korea, research experience at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and combat duty in Operation Desert Storm. Chris is currently a Distinguished McKnight and University Teaching Professor with research interests in the area of chemical theory and modeling.

**Critical Issues and Controversies in Elementary Education**

Terry Johnson, Curriculum & Instruction

Fall 2008
CI 1903, Section 001
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics
3 credits
Friday, 9:30 a.m.—12:10 p.m.
Peik Hall, East Bank, Minneapolis
57929

Through exploration of multiple viewpoints on issues and controversies related elementary education, this course will engage students in examining the knowledge, skills, and values needed by effective citizens in the 21st century and the role of the elementary school in producing those citizens. The course includes visits to elementary schools.

**Terry Johnson** brings five years of grades 5-8 teaching experience and has taught numerous education courses including a course titled, *Developing Civic Discourse in the Social Studies.*
Critical Issues and Controversies in Elementary Education

Peggy DeLapp, Curriculum & Instruction

Fall 2008
CI 1903, Section 002
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics
3 credits
Thursday, 9:30 a.m.—12:10 p.m.
Peik Hall, East Bank, Minneapolis
57930

Through exploration of multiple viewpoints on issues and controversies related elementary education, this course will engage students in examining the knowledge, skills, and values needed by effective citizens in the 21st century and the role of the elementary school in producing those citizens. The course includes visits to elementary schools.

Peggy DeLapp had 27 years of experience working in elementary schools before coming to the University. She enjoys working with students who are interested in elementary teaching. Her research interests include literacy education, educational policy and politics of education.

Ahead of the Class: Seven Secrets for Becoming Your Own Teacher

Carl Brandt, Career & Community Learning Center
Chris Kearns, College of Liberal Arts

Fall 2008
CLA 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Blegen Hall 240, West Bank, Minneapolis
44328

A good education provides a key to a successful life. But outstanding students are not usually born that way; they learn how to develop their skills. Everyone begins this process with teachers, mentors, or role models. The most successful people go beyond that; they don’t just learn from others, they learn how to learn, and how to guide their own development.

You will spend at least two hours per week in a structured program working with middle- or high-school students who need additional academic assistance. Through guided reflection on this experience, you will learn to help yourself by helping others. In this class, you will develop a personalized learning success plan that you can use throughout your college experience and your life.

Carl Brandt is the director of the Career and Community Learning Center in CLA. He teaches in the leadership minor and is still teaching himself classical piano.

Chris Kearns is the Assistant Dean of Student Services in CLA. His background is in film and comparative literature, but he finds time for kayaking and teaching and competing in karate.
Communication Across Cultures

Rosita Albert,
Communication Studies

Fall 2008
COMM 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspective
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57307

Are you curious about people from other cultures, how they see the world, and how they act? In this seminar, you will become familiar with basic intercultural concepts and begin to develop the skills that can facilitate effective intercultural communication. We will address similarities and differences between people from specific countries and cultures from around the world. This seminar will challenge you to think in new ways!

Rosita Albert conducts research on intercultural interactions in diverse organizational settings both within the U.S. and internationally. She also investigates the development and evaluation of effective intercultural and diversity programs. Her teaching focuses on the theory and practice of intercultural communication, cross-cultural research methods, and intercultural sensitization/training.

The 2008 Election: Political Debates and Campaign Rhetoric

Edward Schiappa,
Communication Studies

Fall 2008
COMM 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Ford Hall 155, East Bank, Minneapolis
44308

This seminar will closely follow the presidential and Minnesota senatorial campaigns of fall 2008 to introduce students to relevant theories and research pertaining to political speech-making, advertising, and debates. This class is an opportunity for you not to advocate your favorite candidate, but rather to learn how communication scholarship can enhance our understanding of the campaign and election.

Edward Schiappa’s research on political argumentation and persuasion has appeared in many scholarly journals. He is the author of five books, including Defining Reality: Definitions and the Politics of Meaning and Warranting Assent: Case Studies in Argument Evaluation. He is also past editor of Argumentation and Advocacy. He holds the Paul W. Frenzel Chair of Liberal Arts.
Media and War

Mary Vavrus Douglas, Communication Studies

Fall 2008
COMM 1905, Section 002
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
Ford Hall 151, East Bank, Minneapolis 44310

This seminar aims to foster deep understanding of the language of war as it is used in media coverage of wars involving the military, as well as “extra-military” wars: the War on Poverty, the War on Drugs, sports, and business. The course will investigate the social and psychological impacts of the common usage of war language, followed by an exploration of media constructions representing resolution and reconciliation after conflict. The goal of the seminar is to learn to employ methods of analysis that reveal war language and its divisiveness while illuminating possibilities for creating more conciliatory, unifying constructions. Because the media play an important and highly visible role in mobilizing public opinion, both for and against war efforts, it is vitally important for media users to develop their analytical skills when encountering media representations of war. And because so many media users are now also media makers – employing sites such as Facebook and YouTube to express themselves – their ability to construct thoughtfully their own representations in a context of unity and conciliation is of paramount importance as well.

Mary Vavrus Douglas teaches and conducts research in critical media studies on topics such as the media’s relationship to political campaigns, gender representations in news media, news coverage of war and homeland security, and the economics of media corporations.

Cross-Cultural Studies of Children

Michael Maratsos, Institute of Child Development

Fall 2008
CPSY 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspectives
3 credits
Tuesday, 10:10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
105 Child Dev, East Bank, Minneapolis 44372

Most people feel that something central about human nature is shown by the ways that people raise and treat children. It seems natural to us that parents would be motivated largely by unselfish love and concern for their children. But the historical and anthropological literature shows a much wider range of what is natural. Indeed, historians and anthropologists often find themselves taken aback at the apparent cruelty or disregard for children’s welfare that parents and society seem to display in a great many human cultures, in contrast to the benevolence or warmth that is ordinary in others. In this seminar we will become better acquainted with this extraordinary variation, and how it arises from the interaction of human biological potential with the ever-changing environments that humans evolve for themselves.

Michael Maratsos has been at the University since 1972, teaching courses on child development, the biological foundations of development, and language development, and honors courses on nonrational thought and cross-cultural development. He has received awards for distinguished research contributions from the American Psychological Association (APA) and the developmental division of APA.
The Third Way of Science:
Computer Simulation

Charles D. Swanson, Computer Science & Engineering

Fall 2008
CSCI 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Electrical Engineering/Computer Sciences
Building 2-120, East Bank, Minneapolis
56846

Since Galileo added experimentation to theoretical analysis, scientific progress has advanced using these two modes of investigation. More recently, computer simulation has become the third way of doing science, complementing theory and experiment. This seminar will introduce students to the fundamental concepts of computer modeling and simulation using simple computational tools. Along the way, computer simulation will be used to explore questions such as: Is global warming real? Is there a maximum weight for a bungee jumper? What role does competition play in our society? How deep can a scuba diver dive? How can we stop the spread of a viral disease? How do galaxies evolve? Can simulation predict stock market performance? And the big question: why do some mushroom species grow in concentric circles?

Prior to joining the University in 2000, Chuck Swanson had 30 years of experience involving scientific computing at Argonne National Laboratory, Control Data Corporation, and Cray Research, Inc.

The Truth in Fiction

Thomas Pepper, Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature

Fall 2008
CSCL 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
58178

This seminar is concerned with the ways language works to set up distinctions of truth, fiction, and meaning in texts from literature, philosophy, and religion. How can we learn from considering fictions as not opposed to truth, but as things that are true and made, which are in turn makers of truth? How do different kinds of fictions – now considered as objects made by human beings, but not, necessarily, as untrue – play a major role in creating the world? The aim of the seminar is to show how becoming better readers and writers relates to public action by showing how language is something in which we all participate, and to make students into such readers and writers, and hence to think about the language of others as well as their own as modes of ethical action.

Thomas Pepper has also taught and lectured in Argentina, Denmark, England, France, Germany, and Italy. He has been a Federal Chancellor’s Fellow and a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He enjoys peace and friendship, as well as solitude and the working out of difficult problems.
Storytelling and Narrative

Brad Hokanson, Graphic Design

Fall 2008
DES 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Tuesday, 1:55 – 4:45 p.m.
Carlson School of Management 1-122, West Bank, Minneapolis
42292

How we convey information and convince others often occurs through the use of stories; we use narrative to structure our understanding of the world or of our context; and we use myth as a means to provide order even in the most technological context. Examining the use of stories will provide tools and skills valuable in the world of the future; valuable for any university student. Skill with narrative, as taught in the Harvard Business School, can be a valuable tool and a worthwhile skill. Stories in this class will be developed in written, oral, and visual form and will include oral presentations, written stories, and graphic novels or comic books. The class will have a number of components, all focused on the development of skills tied together by storytelling, and will include a final performance or presentation for the term of work from the semester.

Brad Hokanson has a special interest in eScholarship and the use of technology in instruction.

Printing for Designers

James Boyd-Brent, Graphic Design

Fall 2008
DES 1910W, Section 002
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 11:45 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
McNeal Hall B9, St. Paul
42204

This course is a studio and research exploration of how designers reproduce their ideas in print. The studio component of this course will center on hands-on screenprinting in the Surface Design Studio in McNeal Hall, and will also include monoprinting, letterpress printing, relief printing, and digital printing, as well as 3-D printing. A variety of printing surfaces will be used, including paper and fabric. The research component of the class will focus on how contemporary printing technologies are changing, and the effect these changes are having on creative production in the design world. A brief overview of the history of printing will also be covered.

James Boyd-Brent is a practicing printmaker who has received multiple awards for his work.
Strategic Thinking and Social Interaction

Itai Sher, Economics

Fall 2008
ECON 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
44318

Game Theory is a field which studies strategic interaction. This may be important in any situation where a group of people interact and the decisions made by each person depend on the decisions made by others. Game Theory is relevant in many situations, including nuclear deterrence and warfare, the theory of auctions, the analysis of different voting systems, political campaigns, competition among firms, and the formation of social networks, and is also a useful tool for studying concepts that are relevant to many social interactions such as reputation, threats, promises, cooperation, coordination, and incentives. This seminar will provide an informal introduction to the basic concepts of Game Theory, which does not require any mathematics.

Christopher Phelan has previously taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. From 1998-2007 he was a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. His research focuses on theoretical macroeconomics, with an emphasis on government reputation and policies regarding social insurance.

Inequality

Christopher Phelan, Economics

Fall 2008
ECON 1905, Section 003
3 credits
MW, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
57233

This seminar will consider economic inequality from an empirical and theoretical perspective. The first part of the seminar will focus on facts – what do we know about inequality across time, age groups, countries and other categories? The second part will be an attempt to help students create tools that enable careful thought on policies regarding inequality.

Itai Sher specializes in microeconomic theory.
Fair Play in the Business World

Kim-Sau Chung, Economics

Fall 2008
ECON 1905, Section 004
3 credits
TuTh, 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
57234

Ninety-four years ago, Congress passed the FTC Act, creating the Federal Trade Commission, with the mandate to prevent corporations from using unfair methods of competition. What is fair? How should we define fair play in the business world? Often when we see a particular business practice, we have no trouble determining that it is unfair. But can we articulate our outrage and translate it into a few rules that other people can follow?

In this seminar, we will search for such rules by discussing a number of historical landmark cases, including Microsoft, the NCAA, Toys R Us, American Airlines, and AOL-Time Warner. We will debate whether the business practice in question is fair or unfair, and try to formulate our own rules of fairness.

Kim-Sau Chung comes from Hong Kong, China, where politically well-connected businessmen are not known for playing fair. His research interest is game theory, but that only means he enjoys watching other people play games. He himself is by no means good at strategic settings, and is definitely terrible in poker. Politically, he is a liberal, and is sometimes in danger of being a dreamer. Reality so far has not crushed his optimism, and he still dreams that before he dies he will be able to vote in his home country.

Till the Ends of the Earth: Imaginary Travelers from Odysseus to Crusoe

Nabil Matar, English

Fall 2008
ENGL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MW, 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.
Lind Hall 203, East Bank, Minneapolis
33990

In this seminar, we will travel from the Mediterranean basin to the Indian Ocean and from solitary islands in the Atlantic to “Utopia.” Admittedly, those locations were inventions of great minds, but some of them were inspired by real adventures and real geographies. Travel reveals as much about the world as about travelers and their cultures, ideologies, histories, and religions. So, as we follow in the footsteps of crafty Odysseus, pious Sinbad, or solitary Crusoe, we shall learn about the civilizations of the Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Britons, and Portuguese from antiquity to the early modern period.

Nabil Matar has taught in various parts of the world, spending the last twenty years in sunny Florida. Although he cannot claim to have visited all the regions about which he teaches, he has traveled widely, always eager to examine sites that appear in his lectures as well as his research. He has written, edited, and introduced five books on the early modern history of Euro-Islamic relations in the Mediterranean and is currently completing two more books and many articles.
Poetry and Poetic Form
Brian Goldberg, English

Fall 2008
ENGL 1905, Section 002
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
Smith Hall 111, East Bank, Minneapolis
43570

“Poetry,” William Wordsworth tells us, “is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings,” but he goes on to insist that these emotions must be “recollected in tranquility,” that is, they only become poetry once they are put into some kind of form by the work of the poet. In this seminar, we will pay close attention to the powerful images, flights of intelligence, and depths of feeling that good poetry can provide, and we will also focus on technical matters such as rhyme and meter, the characteristics of various “fixed forms” (the sonnet, the villanelle, the pantoum) and “open forms” (the elegy, the ode), and on the special features of free verse. The poems we study will be drawn from a range of historical periods, from the Renaissance up to the present time. Students will also experiment with writing in various verse forms, and at the end of the semester, each student will recite and briefly comment on a poem of her or his choosing.

Brian Goldberg’s research interests include Romanticism, Victorian literature, and eighteenth-century literature, and he has taught classes in poetry and poetic form in many schools across the country.

Shakespeare: Fact, Fiction, and the Politics of Biography
Katherine Scheil, English

Fall 2008
ENGL 1905, Section 003
3 credits
Thursday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
44312

This seminar focuses on the various ways in which the “text” of Shakespeare’s life has been constructed, appropriated, and refigured in the last 300 years. What are the key life issues in particular historical contexts and why? How does Shakespearian biography relate to other cultural, literary, or political climates? We will explore the ideologies behind various biographies, and will consider why Shakespearian biography has garnered so much recent interest in both popular and academic venues. The course will cover a variety of historical examples of Shakespearian biography, from the first biography in 1709 to more recent biographies, both academic and popular, including Stephen Greenblatt’s Will in the World (2004) and Germaine Greer’s recent controversial work Shakespeare’s Wife (2007). We will also explore some of the many imaginative biographical works (novels, poems, plays, films, radio and television drama, artworks, etc.), such as Robert Nye’s Mrs. Shakespeare, Grace Tiffany’s novel Will, Peter Whelan’s play The Herbal Bed, Edward Bond’s play Bingo, and Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman’s film Shakespeare in Love.

Katherine Scheil’s scholarly work focuses on Shakespeare, particularly the reception and performance history of Shakespeare in later periods. She is interested in the various ways Shakespeare has been used throughout history, from the eighteenth-century stage to the modern film.
Ever wonder why so many people these days seem to be buying organic produce, shopping at food co-ops, and visiting their local farmers’ markets? We’ll explore how this emerging social movement – the sustainable food movement – got started in the U.S. by focusing on the farmers, activists, cooks, and eaters who made it all possible. We’ll read some of the most important things they wrote over the last forty years, including manifestos, cookbooks, memoirs, and more. We’ll also spend some time shopping, cooking, and eating; watching a few great new documentaries on food; and visiting “Cornercopia,” the student organic farm on the University’s St. Paul campus. Writers whose work we’ll likely read include Wendell Berry, Wes Jackson, Frances Moore Lappé, Peter Singer, Julia Child, Alice Waters, Carlo Petrini, and Michael Pollan. Our goal throughout will be to discover the role that writers have played in telling the story of our food from farm to table, or “plow to plate.”

Dan Philippon has been teaching undergraduates for more than fifteen years and is the recipient of one of the University’s Distinguished Teaching Awards. He is president-elect of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment and is currently writing a book on the sustainable food movement.

Chess and 21st Century Skills

William Bart, Educational Psychology

This course is an examination of the basic components of chess and computer-based chess. During the seminar we will investigate how chess players think, including visual-spatial thinking and critical thinking, the psychology of critical thinking and other 21st Century reasoning skills, and research on chess cognition.

William M. Bart studies critical thinking skills and visual-spatial thinking skills used in chess playing and other contexts. He is interested in helping students improve their reasoning skills.
Human Impact on the Environment

Jay Bell, Soil, Water & Climate

Fall 2008
ESPM 1901, Section 001
LE: Environment
3 credits
Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
St. Paul
57090

Humans have had a profound effect on the environment throughout the history from our earliest civilizations until today. In this seminar we will examine how human activities have altered the earth by studying specific events in our past and of concern today. Examples include land degradation in ancient Mesopotamia, the draining of the Aral Sea, and the Dust Bowl. We will focus on the causes, attempted solutions, and long-term effects of human impact on the environment using examples from around the world (Australia, China, Russia, Morocco, and Antarctica) as well as what we find in our own backyards today.

Jay Bell is Associate Dean of Academic Programs and Faculty Affairs for the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences and a professor of soil science, he has received four teaching awards including the H.T. Morse Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education and has worked in such diverse areas as wetland ecology, mine reclamation, soil conservation, remote sensing, soil salinization, soil mapping, and climate change. He has had the opportunity to work extensively in Australia, Morocco, and across North America.

The Omnivore’s Dilemma—Environmental, Health and Economic Impacts of Human Food Choices

Emily Hoover, Horticultural Science
Karen Oberhauser, Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology

Fall 2008
ESPM 1901, Section 002
LE: Environment
3 credits
MW, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
St. Paul
57091

Michael Pollan explores the consequences of food choices in his book, The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, which we will use to explore alternative paths for food. We’ll compare the agriculture and food distribution systems that feed most Americans to organic agriculture and local foods. Students will have the opportunity to meet and interview local experts on food policies, the economics of food production and environmental impacts of food production and distribution. Guest speakers and possible field trips will introduce students to local food and agricultural alternatives. Small group projects will investigate key food policy questions from an interdisciplinary perspective. While there are no prerequisites, concurrent registration in General Biology (Biol 1001 or 1009) will be helpful. Please note there are two mandatory Saturday field trips.
Karen Oberhauser studies monarch butterfly populations, emphasizing the impacts of human activities such as pest control and greenhouse gas production. She is dedicated to encouraging undergraduate behaviors that promote success through her teaching, advising and outreach activities.

Emily Hoover, Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor, has taught at the University for over 20 years. Her research area focuses on sustainable agricultural production with an emphasis on perennial fruit production. She enjoys interacting with students from across the University and is excited to be teaching this seminar.

Geology of Minnesota

Harvey Thorleifson, Geology & Geophysics

Fall 2008
GEO 1901, Section 001
LE: Environment
3 credits
Wednesday, 10:10 – 11:50 a.m. (full-day field trips Sept. 13 & 27)
Pillsbury Hall 105, East Bank, Minneapolis 33984

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. A full-day field trip on Saturday, September 13 will examine the water resources of our rivers and lakes, and a second full-day trip on Saturday, September 27 will examine how geology controls our well water supply. (Transportation fee = $36.00)

Harvey Thorleifson, Department Director for the Minnesota Geological Survey. He has carried out research on gold, diamonds, offshore mapping, climate change, shoreline erosion, and water supply across much of Canada. The course will be co-taught by members of the Minnesota Geological Survey staff, who have extensive experience in Minnesota geology.
Stories and Struggles
Richa Nagar, Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies

Fall 2008
GWSS 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspective
3 credits
Thursday, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Ford Hall 175, East Bank, Minneapolis
57151

Stories are told and written to articulate resistance across the borders of nations and communities. Writers, community workers, and activists use the process of writing for self – and collective transformation and for grappling with the intricacies of power – internationally, nationally, locally, and with respect to their own bodies. This seminar looks at autobiographies, collective memory work, and stories of resistance to corporate globalization in the Third World. It examines these stories as tools that give meanings and forms to collective organizing and social justice in specific contexts, and looks at how critical reflection, teaching, and learning become key parts of the writing process.

Richa Nagar is originally from Lucknow, India. It was the women activists at Awadh College in Lucknow and at the University of Poona whose voices against dowry, rape, communalism, and casteism sowed the seeds of feminism inside Richa. From there, she traveled to Minnesota in 1989 to seek a doctoral degree in Geography – an intense intellectual, political, and personal journey that took her to Tanzania to study race and communal politics from a feminist perspective. She taught for two years at the geography department in Boulder (Colorado), before returning to Minnesota.

Bollywood: Popular Indian Cinema
Jigna Desai, Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies

Fall 2008
GWSS 1904, Section 002
LE: International Perspective
3 credits
MW, 10:10 am. – 12:40 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57287

Every American has heard of Hollywood, but fewer people know about Bollywood. This tongue-in-cheek term describes a cinema from India that is popular around the world—India makes more films than any other nation. “Bollywood” has become the dominant term to refer to Bombay’s (Mumbai’s) prolific Hindi language film industry and cinema. Characterized by music and dance numbers, melodrama, lavish production, and an emphasis on stars and spectacle, Bollywood films have box-office success and enthusiastic audiences both within India and globally.

We will discuss what it means to watch a film and discover what it can tell us about society, history, politics, and economics. We will watch old and new films, and films in English and Hindi (with subtitles), to understand what it means to think of popular culture in a postcolonial nation and globalized world.

Jigna Desai spent her undergraduate days studying astronomy and physics, while reading literature on the side. Faced with the prospect of graduate school, she decided to read more novels, so she went off to get a PhD. in literature. Along the way, she started watching films on the side. Now she is a scholar and teacher of feminist and queer theory, race and ethnicity, and South Asian popular culture.
Most students of human pre-history now agree that our species originated in Africa, and that the rest of the world was populated from Africa, starting about 50,000 years ago. Although it has long been known that these early people were as intelligent as we like to think we are, it has been very difficult to say much about how they lived or thought. But in the last few decades specialists in many fields – such as archaeology, population genetics, and historical linguistics – have shed intriguing new light on the remote human past. This seminar will introduce students to this work, and will focus in particular on three vital social processes that underlie all of subsequent human history: the formation of cultural traditions that can be documented over an extended area; the formation of settled communities, making regular use of plant as well as animal resources; and the domestication of plants and animals, which seems to have happened in roughly the same era in several different parts of the globe.

James Tracy is a specialist in early modern Europe, with a developing interest in pre-history, and in contributions that historians might make to an area that already involves exciting new work in a number of disciplines.

George Kliger's focus is on interdisciplinary research and teaching with emphases on philosophy, literature, psychology, and social thought.
**Time**

Christopher Macosko, Chemical Engineering  
Paul Capel, Civil Engineering

Fall 2008  
IOFT 1905, Section 005  
2 credits  
Wednesday, 3:35 – 5:15 p.m.  
Ford Hall 155, East Bank, Minneapolis  
44384

Is time travel possible? What is time? Although time is an integral part of science and everyday life, it is a complex topic that has been discussed by scientists and philosophers for centuries. This seminar will make connections between the science/engineering aspects of time and the broader philosophical/societal aspects. The science and engineering topics will include kinetics, radioactive decay, paleogeology, measurement of time, and aging processes. The philosophical and societal topics will include the arrow of time, cyclic and linear time, and the beginning and end of time. We will even spend some time talking about how to manage your time better!

Chris Macosko teaches about polymers; his latest research project is using these very long molecules to direct cancer drugs to tumors. He and his wife Kathleen live on Oak Street near the “superblock” and have been known to invite students to their home. They just returned from a semester sabbatical in Israel.

Paul Capel teaches environmental water chemistry and coordinates a national study on the movement of agricultural chemicals in surface and ground water for the U.S. Geological Survey. His current research interest is the pathways by which corn and soybean herbicides are transported in the air.

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**Achieving Our Country: The African American Press, American Journalism, and the Civil Rights Movement**

Kathy Roberts Forde, Journalism & Mass Communication  
Catherine Squires, Journalism & Mass Communication

Fall 2008  
JOUR 1905, Section 001  
3 credits  
Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Ford Hall 170, East Bank, Minneapolis  
52478

This seminar will give students a detailed overview of the history and importance of the African American press in the United States and engage students in a critical, in-depth examination of the role of the African American and mainstream press during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Students will explore the cultural, historical, and political underpinnings of African American newspapers and magazines.

The civil rights movement transformed the lives and minds of many Americans living today. The issues it raised – the injustices of institutional and personal racial prejudices; the important contributions of Black Americans to the nation; the meaning and value of freedom in American life – remain important issues as we continue to attempt, in James Baldwin’s words, “to end the racial nightmare, and achieve our country, and change the history of the world.”
Catherine Squires's work focuses on the interactions between racial groups, mass media, and the public sphere. She has published work on African American-owned media, African American identity, and the public sphere.

Kathy Roberts Forde studies journalism history and media law, with an emphasis on First Amendment concerns. Much of her research examines the role of literary journalism in the public sphere through the lenses of social, cultural, and intellectual history and First Amendment theory.

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Language Endangerment, Death, and Revitalization

Nancy Stenson, Institute of Linguistics, English as a Second Language, and Slavic Languages and Literatures

Fall 2008
LING 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspective
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 – 12:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
58425

At any given time throughout history, the world has been home to 6000-8000 different languages. Now, however, the world’s languages are disappearing at an unprecedented rate; it has been estimated that more than 90% will become extinct within this century. Increasing globalization has led to renewed concern for minority languages as symbols of national and ethnic identity. How well are efforts to preserve threatened languages succeeding? What is lost when a language ceases to be spoken? How and why does a population cease to use its language? Why are some languages abandoned while others spread? We will investigate the role and interaction of various forces – among them colonization, nationalism and ethnic pride, and education– in favoring or disfavoring the use of particular languages. We will also examine the language planning efforts currently underway in many parts of the world to preserve languages under threat.

Professor Stenson’s research has focused primarily on the Irish language, most recently the effects of long-term contact with and pressure from English. Through her courses in linguistics field methods, she has become familiar with a number of the world’s minority languages and the maintenance issues facing them.
What Music Is: Its Meaning, Reality, Communication, and Embodiment

Guerino Mazzola, Music

Fall 2008
MUS 1905, Section 002
3 credits
MWF, 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Ferguson Hall 225, West Bank, Minneapolis 52981

This seminar is about how music comes into our existence from its symbolic abstraction to its physical waves and the vibrations of our psyches, and how it is communicated among humans from the composers to the audience, how it creates poetic, emotional, and physiological meaning, is embodied in the musicians’ lives, and unfolds abstract formulas into living gestures. The seminar should clarify to students why they want to study music, and why music is about the whole life.

Guerino Mazzola’s present concern is in the making, the gestures, and the human dimension of scientific and artistic works, not the result-oriented ideology of the living dead. He earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Zurich University, where he also qualified as a professor in algebraic geometry and in computational science. He is also an internationally acclaimed free jazz pianist and has profiled the European school of mathematical music theory since 1980. He has written 16 books on mathematics, music theory, brain research, and semiotics, among them The Topos of Music, proposed by the American Mathematical Society as the mathematics book of the year 2005. His latest book, La vérité du beau dans la musique, is about the philosophy of music.

Striving to be a Creative Leader

Jerry Luckhardt, Music

Fall 2008
MUS 1905, Section 003
3 credits
TuTh, 10:10 – 11:40 a.m.
Ferguson Hall 95, West Bank, Minneapolis 52986

The topic of leadership has been studied throughout time and over many disciplines. This seminar will explore this interesting subject through the experience of a musician, conductor, administrator, and teacher. Beyond examining theories of leadership, this seminar will explore creativity, communication, and setting the conditions for using leadership in everyday life.

Jerry Luckhardt is Associate Director of Bands and conductor of the Symphonic Band, Chamber Winds and New Music Ensemble; and coordinates all aspects of the undergraduate conducting curriculum at the University of Minnesota. The scope of Luckhardt’s background complements his ensemble accomplishments. He has served as interim director of the School of Music and was the director of the Minnesota Marching Band for eight years. He has appeared as a guest conductor and clinician with ensembles around the nation in Europe and Asia. Among his accomplishments, Luckhardt is conductor and manager of the Medalist Concert Band of Bloomington, Minnesota, and is conductor and artistic director of the Encore Wind Ensemble of Minneapolis. He has been on the faculty at Baylor University, the University of Texas, and the University of Michigan.
Music in Nazi Germany

Karen Painter, Music

Fall 2008
MUS 1908W, Section 001
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 9:35 – 11:00 a.m.
Ferguson Hall 105, West Bank, Minneapolis
58338

One of history’s most brutal regimes was also among the greatest patrons of music. Hitler attended the opera avidly and sketched designs for opera productions. The Third Reich promised an escape from modernism in art and culture, yet sought its stake in world progress, from the 1936 Olympics to the broadcasting of modern music. Inconsistency and contradictions were crucial to the functioning of “totalitarianism,” and musical life was no exception. From the Jewish Cultural Union to concentration camps, from high art to folk music, the Reich Chamber of Music and countless critics aimed to show the importance of music to the new state. This seminar will pursue questions such as the relevance of this Nazification of music to the performance and interpretation of the same works today. Are Beethoven’s and Bruckner’s symphonies inherently political, or does blame lie with the perpetrators? Do works composed in Nazi Germany and embraced by Nazi critics – above all, Carl Orff’s now universally popular Carmina burana – remain political to this day?

Karen Painter has examined the relationship between music, listening, and ideology in the context of nineteenth-century Austrian and German social history, fin-de-siècle cultural debates, World War I, Austro-German socialism, and Nazism. Her research interests include Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, Bruckner, Mahler, Schoenberg, Richard Strauss, Hindemith, and Orff.

Sounding Off: Studying Sonic Experience

Scott Currie, Music

Fall 2008
MUS 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.
Thursday, 11:15 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.
Ferguson Hall 225, West Bank, Minneapolis
57345

What’s on your iPod and what does it say about where you’ve been, who you are, and what you want to be? How can we begin to understand the meaning of the sounds that fill our lives and come to define ourselves? We will sample historical, anthropological, and theoretical perspectives on the experience of sound, offering inspiration and conceptual frameworks for further investigation. Research projects will give students the chance to apply these approaches to the multi-faceted study of their own sonic worlds. The ability to read, write, or play music is helpful, but not essential; the willingness to listen deeply and think critically will be indispensable.

A teenage jazz saxophonist and punk-rock guitarist, Scott Currie studied physics and politics until he organized a jazz festival featuring an unforgettable concert by pianist-composer Cecil Taylor, which convinced him to devote his life to music. His determined struggle to break into the New York City jazz scene paid off, with the opportunity to put together an all-star improvising orchestra, in which he performed with his heroes Dixon and Taylor and mentors Smith and Parran. All the while, he’s pursued his academic career, researching and teaching jazz, world music, and African American music, along with anthropology and American studies, as he ponders the meaning of it all.
The execution of Socrates in 399BC for corrupting the youth of Athens is considered a founding event of Western philosophy. We will study Socrates chiefly as depicted in Plato’s dialogues, since Socrates himself wrote nothing. We will read Plato’s depiction of Socrates’ defense speech at his trial, Socrates’ conversation with some adolescent interlocutors, and Socrates’ conversation with some professional educators of Athenian youth. We will ask what Socrates meant when in reaction to the Delphic Oracle’s pronouncement that no one was wiser than Socrates, he said that he knew nothing important. We will attempt to understand why those who convicted Socrates thought that he was corrupting young people. We will ask whether reflecting on Socrates might improve us today.

Sandra Peterson’s main research area is in ancient philosophy. Her current research project is a book on Socrates in the dialogues of Plato. She is also interested in philosophy of language and in the 20th century philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) is one of the greatest composers in the Western classical canon. He also seems to have the strongest hold on the modern imagination, as witnessed by the enduring success of Milos Forman’s Oscar-winning film Amadeus. This seminar will explore Mozart’s life – why should anyone today care about music by someone who lived more than 200 years ago? His 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.

Michael Kac is a pianist, harpsichordist, and composer with extensive experience in both the classical and popular fields. From 1967-69 he played electric harpsichord with the band Mandrake Memorial, with whom he recorded two albums. He performs regularly on the Twin Cities folk-music circuit and he is presently one half of a duo with guitarist Linda Cohen specializing in music with an eclectic blend of influences.
After the Big Bang

Marvin Marshak, Physics

Fall 2008
PHYS 1905, Section 003
2 credits
Monday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 143, East Bank, Minneapolis
34724

About 13 billion years ago, the Universe was formed in a cataclysmic explosion known as the “Big Bang.” Our first understanding of this singular event originated about 80 years ago with the discovery of the Hubble relationship between stellar distance and stellar velocity. In recent years, knowledge has vastly increased with detailed measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation and connections between cosmology and nuclear and elementary particle physics. This course will focus on the current understanding of the Big Bang and related phenomena such as Dark Matter and Dark Energy.

Marvin L. Marshak does research in experimental elementary particle physics, especially the properties of neutrinos. He has taught a number of introductory physics and astronomy classes, as well as Freshman Seminars and study-abroad Global Seminars and is a recipient of the Horace T. Morse Alumni Association Award.

What Everything is Made Of

Kenneth J. Heller, Physics

Fall 2008
PHYS 1905, Section 005
2 credits
Thursday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 157, East Bank, Minneapolis
25782

We all know that the everyday objects around us are made of atoms. The atoms are themselves made of electrons and a nucleus with lots of space in between. The nuclei are made of protons and neutrons. But what are the protons, neutrons, and electrons made of? Does this chain of smaller and smaller bits of matter go on forever? What about space? Is it really empty, or is it made of something? There are less common objects in our Universe: neutrinos, black holes, antimatter. Are they made of the same stuff as a chair? This seminar will allow you to investigate the latest results, theories, and speculations from the frontiers of physics in a qualitative manner. (Math Level: High School Algebra)

Ken Heller’s 30-year career to probe the fundamental nature of the universe includes the experiment that discovered tau neutrino interactions, the MINOS experiment that is measuring neutrino oscillations, and building a larger neutrino experiment that investigates a key ingredient for the creation of our universe. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and has been awarded the Geo Taylor/IT Alumni Society Award and the Horace T. Morse Alumni Association Award.
Quantum Mechanics for Everyone

Allen Goldman, Physics

Fall 2008
PHYS 1905, Section 006
2 credits
Monday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 236a, East Bank, Minneapolis
25788

One of the greatest intellectual accomplishments of the Twentieth Century was the development of Quantum Mechanics, a field of physics which describes the counter-intuitive behavior of molecules, atoms, light and sub-atomic 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 class 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’s research is in the area of experimental condensed matter physics. His specific work on superconductivity involves the application of quantum mechanics to macroscopic systems.

How Things Work

E. Dan Dahlberg, Physics

Fall 2008
PHYS 1905, Section 007
2 credits
Tuesday, 2:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 236a, East Bank, Minneapolis
25790

This seminar will develop an understanding of how devices in our high technology society work including engines, motors, radios, TV, and CD players. There will also be a series of simple technological devices the students will construct during the semester to explore the engineering process of taking physics into technology. These engineering projects may include building an electromagnet, electric motor, a mouse trap powered toy car, an egg saver (when dropped from a considerable height), and a match head rocket. In addition to the construction projects, each student will present about a technology or device they have taken apart to explore and understand.

Dan Dahlberg is a condensed matter experimentalist with expertise in magnetism and superconductivity. At the present time his primary research focus is on magnetism at the nanoscale.
How Common is Extraterrestrial Life?

J. Woods Halley, Physics

Fall 2008
PHYS 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
2 credits
TuTh, 9:05 – 9:55 a.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 143, East Bank, Minneapolis
56778

This course will study the various scientific issues that arise in considering the question of whether extraterrestrial intelligence is likely to exist in our galaxy and whether humans are likely to detect it. We will read a series of articles by distinguished experts on various aspects of the question, leading to an analysis of various factors in the ‘Drake equation,’ which provides a model for estimating the number of existing civilizations in the galaxy. Estimates of these factors involve huge uncertainties, but something definite can be said about most of them and the discussion ranges over a great many disciplines including physics, astronomy, biology, chemistry, archeology, and sociology. There will be a brief discussion of the quality of the evidence that extraterrestrials have been observed as claimed by the UFO community. 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.

Constitutional Meanings: From the Founders to the MySpace Generation

Elizabeth Beaumont, Political Science

Fall 2008
POL 1903, Section 001
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
Blegen Hall 135, West Bank, Minneapolis
57275

This seminar explores American constitutional meanings and development by focusing on some of the most controversial issues from American history to our era: slavery, equal citizenship, free speech, and religious exercise. We will consider multiple perspectives on constitutional theory, history, and practice, including key Supreme Court cases, such as Brown v. Board of Education, and the constitutional arguments and actions of some of the important citizens and groups that have participated in shaping constitutional meanings during different periods. We will trace the path of important constitutional rights and liberties into our contemporary world, with special attention to rights in educational contexts and how schools operate as microcosms of broader constitutional goals and conflicts. The seminar includes a Moot Court focused on contemporary issues of students’ First Amendment rights.

Elizabeth Beaumont’s research and teaching focus on political theory, constitutional law, and civic education, with special interests in rights and democratic citizenship. She has coauthored two books on civic and political engagement and has also authored or coauthored several articles, book chapters, and other publications.
Finding Puzzles and Explanations in Everyday Life

W. Phillips Shively, Political Science

Fall 2008
POL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MWF, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
Hubert Humphrey Center 30, West Bank, Minneapolis
39374

This seminar will train students’ eyes for puzzles in the world around them, and provide them with several types of models by which puzzles can be explained. An example would be: “In the past several elections, the Republican candidate for President has done better among upper income groups than among the poor. However, the ‘red states’ in which people tend to vote Republican in Presidential elections (Mississippi, Texas, Idaho, etc.) are mostly poorer than the ‘blue states’ in which people tend to vote Democratic (Connecticut, Massachusetts, California, etc.). How can we explain this paradox?”

W. Phillips Shively studies elections across the world. He has also taught at University of Oregon, Yale University, and the University of Oslo. He has also been involved in politics directly, including four years as a lobbyist at the state legislature. He enjoys looking for puzzles and paradoxes in political life, and playing both with words and with numbers. This seminar is a result of those proclivities. Outside of the University, he likes classical music, hiking, and birding.

The Experience of Aging in Literature and the Arts

Robert Yahnke, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Fall 2008
PSTL 1902, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity
3 credits
Monday, 12:20 – 2:15 p.m.;
Wednesday, 1:25 – 2:15 p.m.
Appleby Hall 223, East Bank, Minneapolis
37460

This course will present an overview of how the experience of aging is portrayed in literature and the arts (novels, short fiction, drama, nonfiction, poetry, art, and films). Research and study on this topic can enrich and inform our understanding of many universal aspects of aging (including theories of adult development, aging across the lifespan, ageism and gerontophobia, roles within families, and the mutual benefits of intergenerational relationships). Likewise, the course draws upon images and myths from literature and the arts that draw upon the wisdom, heroism, limits, and transcendence of old age. This course will emphasize the experience of aging as it is perceived from the older person’s point of view.

Robert E. Yahnke has studied and written on films and gerontology since 1978, made numerous presentations on literature and film in the context of gerontology at national conferences, and has written numerous articles, reviews, and three books analyzing resources on film and/or literature on aging.
Exploring Diversity through a Popular Culture Lens

Jeanne Higbee, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Fall 2008
PSTL 1907W, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Monday 1:25-3:50 p.m.
Appleby Hall 226, East Bank, Minneapolis 53110

This course introduces topics related to diversity in the U.S. The goal is to promote understanding and acceptance of cultural and individual differences. We will view diverse social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, gender, class, sexual orientation, language, disability) through the lens of popular culture and examine stereotypes that shape attitudes.

Jeanne Higbee has worked in higher education since 1974 and has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and service. Her research focuses on access and success for students from historically marginalized populations, and includes publications co-authored by undergraduate students. She is an international leader in the implementation and dissemination of Universal Instructional Design and believes strongly in using multiple approaches to teaching, learning, and assessing knowledge.

The Truth About High Stakes Testing

Nathan Kuncel, Psychology

Fall 2008
PSY 1905, Section 001
3 credits
MW, 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
Elliot Hall N227, East Bank, Minneapolis 41950

This seminar will review a wide range of topics surrounding what intelligence tests actually measure and how they are related to important life outcomes, including important things like death, divorce, academic success, and work performance. We will explore the nature of intelligence and creativity, dig into twin and neurological research on IQ, and root around in several mysteries in psychological science, including dramatic increases in IQs in the U.S. over the preceding decades, birth order effects, and the influence of parenting behaviors on intelligence and life outcomes. The seminar will be focused on learning and discussing quantitative research results with the goal of linking them to public policy.

Nathan Kuncel studies the prediction and structure of academic and job performance. His goal is to understand what behaviors constitute academic success, as well as to obtain a complete understanding of all of the characteristics of students that are related to their success in school, including both cognitive and hard-to-measure characteristics like motivation and drive. Some of this research has yielded national and international media attention which, Kuncel says, “has been fun and frightening for a bookish introvert like me.” He also does research on faking personality tests and on the background of children that influences subsequent success, including socio-economic status and parental involvement.
What is the Human Mind?

Chad Marsolek, Psychology

Fall 2008
PSY 1905, Section 002
3 credits
Tuesday, 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Elliot Hall S204, East Bank, Minneapolis
42460

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. Your mind accomplishes this task, not your lungs or heart, but what is this "mind" that is capable of such complex internal information processing? Is it just a flurry of activated brain cells? Is it something non-physical? 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 also are 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 says he’s not quite sure how conscious or unconscious he is of such maintenance.

Psychology of Eating and Body Image

Traci Mann, Psychology

Fall 2008
PSY 1905, Section 003
3 credits
Thursday, 1:25 – 3:55 p.m.
Appleby Hall 223, East Bank, Minneapolis
44390

This seminar covers the continuum of human eating behavior, from hunger, starvation, and restraint, to binge eating and obesity, as well as body image and eating disorders. In this seminar, we will call into question several myths about eating and obesity that students may believe. We will discuss the media’s influence on body image, as well as the development of body image concerns and eating disorders. 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 is in her second year on the faculty here after ten years teaching at UCLA. Her 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 ways to improve people’s body image.
Movies and Madness: Media Portrayals of Abnormal Psychology

Monica Luciana, Psychology

Fall 2008
PSY 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Wednesday, 1:25 – 4:10 p.m.
Elliott Hall N391, East Bank, Minneapolis
57198

People are captivated by TV shows, characters portrayed in popular films, and what they read in newspapers. Many of these portrayals are compelling because they depict extremes of human behavior that do not necessarily affect all people but that represent struggles to prevail in times of distress or adversity. Often, this distress is due to the presence of a psychological disorder. This seminar will use film portrayals of psychological disorders to teach students basic descriptive aspects of abnormal psychology. Each week, students will read a module from the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-IV (DSM-IV), watch a film in class, and respond in a short essay to a question about the correspondence between the film portrayal and how the specific disorder in question is described in the DSM-IV. The DSM-IV describes disorders related to mood, anxiety, body perception, eating, substance abuse, psychosis, cognition, development, and personality.

Monica Luciana's research uses experimental neuropsychological techniques to examine functions controlled by the brain’s prefrontal cortex, how these functions are modulated by brain chemicals such as dopamine and serotonin, and how this part of the brain develops in healthy adolescents.

Trolls, Fairies, and Sea Monsters: Scandinavian Tales

Monika Zagar, German, Scandinavian & Dutch

Fall 2008
SCAN 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Kolthof Hall 134, East Bank, Minneapolis
52481

This seminar will examine various creatures that populate Scandinavian folk and fairy tales and try to determine what they might stand for. Before moving to Scandinavian innovations of the fairy tale genre, especially the nineteenth century tales by the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen, we will discuss European fairy tale authors preceding Andersen.

We will review both historical and topical aspects of fairy tales in Scandinavian (and American) culture. Through a comparison of different variants or interpretations of a well-known text, we will discuss how cultures can be geographically specific and express social values and political realities. A classic example is H.C. Andersen’s fairytale "The Little Mermaid" and Walt Disney’s reinterpretation of the fairytale in his animated version.

Born in Yugoslavia and educated in Norway, Monika Zagar teaches and writes on very different topics within the wider field of Scandinavian literature and culture. While often focusing on contemporary literature, or investigating the relationship between literature and politics, she chose for this seminar the intersection of fairytales, folklore, literature and film to investigate how strange and magic creatures were imagined in the past, and how contemporary culture reinvented them.
United States Latino Theater

Luis Ramos-Garcia, Spanish & Portuguese Studies

Fall 2008
SPAN 1902, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity
3 credits
MW, 10:10 – 11:25 a.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
58393

A wide variety of Latino groups have used the stage to explore identity issues in a public forum and have developed nontraditional approaches that have altered the nature, quality, and substance of recent theater in the United States. Off-Broadway, regional troupes, and groups such as the Teatro Campesino, Gala Theater (Latin American exiles in the U.S.), Ollantay (Cuban-American marginal theater), Avante, Su Teatro (Mexican-American), and the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (Nuyorican) have attempted to address the audience’s desire to see their problems enacted in understandable and creative terms. This seminar will introduce U.S. Latin(o) playwrights, and the historical, political and cultural development framework that made it possible. We will also explore how the size, ethnic and racial composition, and distribution of U.S. Hispanic groups have shaped the dynamics of its theatrical communities.

Luis Ramos-Garcia is a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture and a member of the U of M Human Rights Committee, he is also a founder and director of The State of Iberoamerican Studies Series in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies. He received the 1998-1999 and 2007 President’s Faculty Multicultural Research Award for his research on U.S. Latino Theater.

Truth, Authority, and Scandal in “Minority” Literature

Jaime Hanneken, Spanish & Portuguese Studies

Fall 2008
SPAN 1907W, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity, Writing Intensive
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57283

As consumers of literature in an age of affirmative action and Oprah’s Book Club, we are frequently exposed to writing that claims to or is expected to represent some form of difference, often looking to minority writing not only as a source of information or entertainment, but also as an authentic representation of otherness. We will undertake a critical examination of the reception of minority literature through study of several media scandals triggered precisely by the perceived betrayal of reader expectations. Controversies like those occasioned by Rigoberta Menchu’s alleged lies in her prize-winning testimonio, or the plagiarism discovered in Yambo Ouologuem’s “African” novel force us to reread the unspoken assumptions that organize their reception. We will question these assumptions both as they pertain to broad categories like “authorship” or “truth” and as they describe negotiations of power in multicultural and postcolonial societies.

Jaime Hanneken’s work focuses on contemporary Latin American and Francophone literature and culture. She is interested in the uses of the term “postcolonial” in academic contexts and in encounters between Western and non-Western forms of knowledge. She views the classroom as the perfect place to illustrate theoretical ideas through her students’ expertise in pop culture.
Images of Youth

Michael Baizerman, Social Work

Fall 2008
SW 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Thursday, 4:05 – 5:45 p.m.
Peters Hall 70, St. Paul
38612

Youth are the subjects of a variety of popular media which treat them as a market and as consumers. Media are basic to the diffusion of youth culture and life-styles; media are central players in the articulation and sustentation of youth moral panics, such as adolescent pregnancy and parenting, drug use, gangs, school shootings, school drop-out rates and the like. This course critically explores the place of youth in present, visual and aural media and the place of these media in the everyday lives of teenagers, adolescents and young people, in the United States and internationally.

Mike Baizerman has been at the University since 1972, teaching courses in youth development and is active in youth civic engagement work in Northern Ireland and in other divided and contested societies.

Theatre: Entertainment With Attitude

David Bernstein, Theatre Arts & Dance

Fall 2008
TH 1911W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Rarig Center 550B, West Bank, Minneapolis
24468

This seminar will introduce non-theatre majors to the richness and diversity of live theatre, through performance and text. We will attend performances at a variety of Twin Cities theatres and use this experience to develop a critical eye and a critical language for thinking about live performance. Our viewing will be supplemented by in-class discussions and talks with theatre and dance professionals.

David Bernstein has thirty years of professional management and artistic experience in the nonprofit theatre world. He is a founding member of the Attic Theatre in Detroit and founder/managing director of the Performing Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
What is College?: The Past, Present, and Future of Universities

Patrick Bruch, Writing Studies

Fall 2008
WRIT 1908W, Section 001
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
57980

In the United States, there is a striking unanimity regarding the foundational principles of public life. Terms such as “democracy,” “equality,” “freedom,” “fairness,” and “justice” provide a fundamental common ground. At the same time, competing understandings of the meanings of such terms fuel intense disagreements and cultural conflicts. This seminar will introduce students to the intellectual projects of studying and participating in higher education as a participatory institution by inviting freshman 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 others have played in shaping the character of higher education.

As a kid, Patrick Bruch got into trouble for questioning authority. When he went to college, he was happy to find out 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.
Religion and Modern Society

Guriqbal Sahota, Asian Languages & Literatures

Spring 2009
ALL 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspective
3 credits
TuTh, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
91382

The rise of science, rationality, and liberal-secularism in Western Europe presented several challenges to existing religious orders over the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the colonial world, the subordination of traditional societies to the dictates of imperial capitalism pushed writers and thinkers toward a reformulation of the principles of their religious beliefs. The revival and reform of Hinduism and Islam, for example, arose in response to Western domination and the transformations underway in modern society, especially those that potentially contradicted matters of faith and community. This seminar looks at the different ways in which religion became modern in different parts of the imperial world. We will study how Enlightenment thinkers conflicted with the Church, how the status of old models of authority in the colonial world was shaken, and how religious thinking and being were revived and made a feature of modern politics and society.

Bali Sahota's work focuses on the relationship between the world of literature and the arena of politics in twentieth century Indian society. He is currently interested in the nature of belief in late modern society across a variety of secular and religious domains. His education has included training in photography, literary journalism, translation, as well as extensive travel around the world.

Cosmic Catastrophes

Lawrence Rudnick, Astronomy

Spring 2009
AST 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Tuesday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics B49, East Bank, Minneapolis
58086

Bored with life’s everyday perils? Let’s explore some bigger ones instead – planetary-sized nightmares, genuine dangers out there in the universe. Everyone has heard of asteroid impacts, but do you know how many awful things they can do? How hard is it to fend off an approaching comet? On a galactic scale, how often do planets like ours get fried by GRB’s? How much should the insurance company charge for supernova coverage? In this course we'll investigate at least six real astronomical threats to civilization, some of which have actually occurred in the past.

Lawrence Rudnick has survived over 29 winters in Minnesota. He enjoys teaching and learning with students from freshmen through Ph.D. candidates. His research involves the observation of high energy objects, such as exploded stars, using ground-based telescopes and satellites and he is also involved in a wide range of public outreach activities.
Nothing

Lawrence Rudnick, Astronomy

Spring 2009
AST 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Thursday, 3:35 – 5:30 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics B49, East Bank, Minneapolis
71504

This seminar will explore how the evolution of bodies in the solar system was affected by cosmic impacts, with special emphasis on how such events affected the biosphere of the Earth. We will discuss the history of the solar system and explore how comets, asteroids, and collisions disturb it. We will also study the nature of scientific discovery by examining views on the great Cretaceous Extinction event. We 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. Texts include Disturbing the Solar System (Alan E. Rubin, 2002) and T. Rex and the Crater of Doom (Walter Alvarez, 1997) and other directed readings. We will also explore the link between science and science fiction related to our fascination of cosmic impacts as seen in media and popular culture.

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Internet Search Economics, Google, and New Business

Robert Connor, Finance

Spring 2009
BA 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Monday, 1:45 – 3:25 p.m.
Carlson School of Management 1-114, West Bank, Minneapolis
91700

This course will engage students in deeper understanding of the market dynamics of internet search today and in prediction of how it will change in the next five years. Key questions to be covered include: What are the different ways by which people search for information through the internet? What are the different ways by which companies, such as Google, generate revenue and provide value to shareholders from internet search? How have search methods and search monetization evolved during the past ten years and how are they likely to evolve in the next five years? How do search engines rank results? To what extent is there competition or synergism among major players like Google, Wikipedia, Microsoft, and Yahoo? Who are the players and what are the stakes in the battle for control of the primary point(s) of access to the internet?

Robert Connor’s current research involves horizontal and vertical mergers in the health sector, the impact of managed care, and the role of expected utility theory in consumer decisions to purchase insurance.
Popular Culture and the Evil Empire: Business and the Media

Holly Littlefield, Strategic Management & Operations

Spring 2009
BA 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 12:45 – 2:25 p.m.
Carlson School of Management 2-219, West Bank, Minneapolis
78096

For decades Hollywood films and the popular media have portrayed corporate America as the enemy—a decadent, heartless entity that values profits over people. Investigative reporters turned out scathing exposés of businesses abusing workers, customers, and the environment. Popular books and films like Wall Street, The Insider, and Roger and Me depicted the business world in unflattering terms. In response, corporations have employed increasingly sophisticated public relations campaigns. Media conglomeration has also provided some businesses control over what gets said or reported about them in the media.

This course will look at how corporations, business executives, workers, and entrepreneurs are portrayed in popular culture and how the media covers business issues. We will consider how this image has developed over time and look at the archetypes of the business world.

Holly Littlefield has taught business and international communications at the Carlson School of Management for the past eight years. She also works as a communications consultant for area businesses and organizations such as Target Corporation, Cima Labs, and Boston Scientific and has published seven children's books.

Genomics: Applications in Biomedical Science and Biotechnology

Perry Hackett, Genetics, Cell Biology & Development

Spring 2009
BIOL 1905, Section 002
1 credit
Tuesday, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
69190

DNA and Genomes are discussed in just about every modern context, from medical science and biotechnology to crime scene investigations, law, insurance policies, and ethics of retooling animal and plant genomes. We will consider interfaces between science, politics, religion and the press. The seminar will begin with some of the recent findings of science and medicine and then consider some ramifications that you will encounter in your daily lives as genomics plays a larger role as applications develop. Students and visitors will discuss a variety of topics including ethics of selection of humans by their genomes, genetic counseling, CSI in Minnesota, the use of DNA profiling in medicine and insurance, and the future of retooling plant and animal genomes to guide future evolution. We will try to develop personal strategies that will allow us to evaluate current and future controversies on similar topics.

Perry Hackett is also a co-founder of a biotech startup company, Discovery Genomics, Inc., which was formed to identify genes that might be of use in medicine and to develop new technologies for human gene therapy and animal biotechnology. He is especially interested in conveying to students the awesome possibilities of modern genetics and the importance of seeking data-based answers to the important questions that science is raising.
American Indian Ways of Knowing the Environmental

Jay Bell, Soil, Water & Climate
Mark A. Bellcourt, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Diversity Office

Spring 2009
CFAN 1902, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity
3 credits
Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Coffey Hall 120, St. Paul

American Indian peoples have occupied “Turtle Island” or North America for more than 20 thousand 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, almost all American Indian people share many common worldviews of the environment. They rely almost exclusively on grandmother earth to provide for their needs and for their survival. This connection to and respect for the land gives American Indians unique worldviews that tend to be more holistic and inclusive than conventional western science. However, traditional western science has the prestige, privilege, and power to generate huge grants and to control what is studied and how it is to be studied. It generates great economic power, political influence and often runs ruff-shoot over cross-cultural differences. Students will examine the historical, contemporary, and often adversarial relationship between Native American worldviews of the environment and the traditional western views of earth sciences. Students will understand the social constructs that legitimizes and promotes one set of scientific protocols and beliefs over another. This seminar will focus on American Indian ways of knowing the environment through discussion, guest speakers, site visits near the University of Minnesota campus, lectures, and community service learning experiences.

Jay Bell is a professor of pedology with emphasis on geospatial research, digital soil mapping, scientific visualization, wetland soil, geomorphology and soil genesis.

Mark Bellcourt is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chipewa Tribe, Mississippi Band of Ojibwe from White Earth. His research has focus on Indigenous ways of knowing math and science.
My Other Car is a Bicycle

R. Lee Penn, Chemistry

Spring 2009
CHEM 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Monday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 111, East Bank, Minneapolis
67188

This seminar will be devoted to researching bicycling as a viable alternative to car-based transportation. We will examine the environmental impacts of choosing cars for transportation, compare the energy required to produce and maintain cars and bicycles, compare the energy required to move people by various modes of transportation, research how city planning limits options for non-car-based transportation, and compare bike movements and cultures in cities worldwide, including the twin cities. We will also learn some basic bike repair and practice urban riding skills. Classes will include field trips (by bike, of course), guest lectures, movies, and more. Each student must have access to a bike during class time.

Lee Penn has been working with nanoparticles since the early 90s and has a passion for understanding their fundamental formation and growth mechanisms, how they are involved in chemical transformations in environmental systems, and elucidating the link between the physical and chemical properties of nanoparticles. She oversees a research group of five graduate students - all working on various topics involving both synthetic and natural nanoparticles.

Solar Energy and the Environment

Xiaoyang Zhu, Chemistry

Spring 2009
CHEM 1905, Section 002
2 credits
Thursday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 121, East Bank, Minneapolis
71458

The looming environmental crisis or catastrophe from the continuing and excessive consumption of fossil fuel is becoming one of the most significant challenges facing mankind. There is consensus among scientific and technological communities that the only viable alternative on a global scale is to switch from fossil fuel to solar energy. Solar energy is clean and abundant. The power our earth receives from the sun is ten thousand times more than human needs. This seminar series will cover various forms of solar energy, such as solar thermal, photovoltaic, and biofuels. We will address the current state-of-the-art, scientific and technological challenges ahead, and the opportunities a solar energy based economy will generate. We will also discuss the environmental, geopolitical, and societal impacts of a solar-energy economy.

Xiaoyang Zhu’s research interests cover three areas: solar energy conversion, organic electronics, and biochips. In the first two areas, his groups focuses on charge separation and transport at interfaces with an ultimate goal of solving the energy problem. His research in the biochip area has led to the founding of a high tech startup company, MicroSurfaces, Inc.
Recycling in the Twin Cities

Wayland E. Noland, Chemistry

Spring 2009
CHEM 1905, Section 003
2 credits
Thursday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 121, East Bank, Minneapolis
71460

This course will explore the recycling of metals, plastic, paper, cardboard, books, clothing and pets and will include aspects such as the ecology, environmental effects, and economics of recycling. We will also examine the chemical structures of recyclable material and how we, as consumers, can contribute to the overall process of recycling.

Wayland E. Noland specializes in organic chemistry. He has witnessed the development of recycling throughout his career, including extensive personal experience in recycling. In 2006 he received the Charles E. Bowers Faculty Teaching Award.

Scientific Progress: Dynamics and Impacts on Practitioners, Popular Culture, and Policy

Chris Cramer, Chemistry

Spring 2009
CHEM 1905, Section 004
2 credits
Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.
Smith Hall 111, East Bank, Minneapolis
71462

The history of science offers many examples illustrating how messy the actual process of discovery and interpretation can be. This course focuses on particular advances and the individuals who made them and places those discoveries into the context of their time. What prior work led investigators to their new ideas? How were these ideas received by the scientific community initially and to what extent were they modified by the response of other researchers? What was the importance of multidisciplinary perspective in the particular advance? What kind of politics affected the scientists and their ability to carry out research and interpret the results? Each class will focus on discussion of weekly readings, current scientific topics from popular media, and more.

Chris Cramer’s professional career began with four years of service as an active-duty officer in the United States Army, including a tour in Korea, research experience at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and combat duty in Operation Desert Storm. Chris is currently a Distinguished McKnight and University Teaching Professor with research interests in the area of chemical theory and modeling.
Quantum Mechanics and Popular Philosophy

Doreen Leopold, Chemistry

Spring 2009
CHEM 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
2 credits
Wednesday, 3:30 – 5:10 p.m.

One may argue about its causal role in such matters, but there is no doubt that the language of quantum mechanics provides a powerful new set of metaphors with which to express our understanding of ourselves and our place in the overall scheme of things. This seminar will begin with an introduction to some of the basic ideas of quantum mechanics, including the uncertainty principle and wave/particle duality, and will discuss some of the quantum paradoxes that highlight the counterintuitive nature of these concepts. The course will also discuss the reflections of these ideas in popular books on philosophy and religion.

Doreen Leopold has taught quantum mechanics, physical and introductory chemistry since 1986, and does research in spectroscopy.

Child Psychologists Confront the Real World

Herb Pick, Institute of Child Development

Spring 2009
CPSY 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Tuesday, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
East Bank, Minneapolis
91372

Everyone thinks of child psychologists working their magic in clinics, schools and family therapy sessions. What is less known or thought about is their role in real life settings where children spend their time. Like detectives, they gather clues about children through observations and test their hypotheses through research. The goal of this seminar is to examine their role in many applied settings and learn how research informs their work.

Herb Pick’s interests have focused on the relation between perception and action. He received an Outstanding Faculty award in 1997-98 from the CLA Student Board in recognition for his undergraduate teaching.
Heritage Landscapes: Planning and Design for the World’s Special Places

Pat Nunnally, Landscape Architecture

Spring 2009
DES 1910W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Monday, 1:25 – 4:25 p.m.
15 Rapson Hall, East Bank, Minneapolis
77284

This seminar will explore the concepts of heritage, preservation, and cultural landscapes and explore connections between culture, place, and design. Students will build basic college-level skills in research, analysis, writing, and presentation through an exploration of broad landscape architecture and world heritage topics.

Pat Nunnally leads the University’s Mississippi River Initiative, working to preserve and restore this vital resource in our community.

American Houses: Past Trends, Future Visions

Katherine Solomonson, Architecture

Spring 2009
DES 1905, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 1:55 – 4:45 p.m.
125 Rapson Hall, East Bank, Minneapolis
91510

Most of the houses people inhabit in 21st America incorporate features that were originally shaped for nineteenth-century lifestyles and values. Why is this, and how have people re-imagined what American houses could be in the future? This seminar will explore the history of the single-family home over the past 150 years. Through discussion, research, and field trips to houses and neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, we will consider how the designs of American houses have related to shifting concepts of family life, leisure, and work; to changing technologies and urban conditions; and to visions of new, sustainable, flexible, and affordable possibilities.

Katherine Solomonson teaches the history of architecture and urban design and also serves as associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Design. Her work focuses on the complex roles buildings and landscapes—and the processes that shape them—play in the production of values, identities, and social practices.
**Game Theory and Human Nature**

Aldo Rustichini, Economics

Spring 2009  
ECON 1905, Section 002  
3 credits  
TuTh, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.  
West Bank, Minneapolis  
72846

Game Theory is the systematic analysis of strategic environment, like wars among states, competition among firms, and relationships among husband and wife. Together with the application of experiments methods, it is now providing a tool to understand some fundamental aspects of human nature, from sympathy to envy.

This course will provide the basic tools to a good understanding of game theory and experimental analysis of human behavior in strategic situations. No special prerequisites are need, but the students will be asked to play an active role in the learning process.

**Aldo Rustichini** teaches in the areas of microeconomic theory, game theory, mathematics for economists, decision theory and political economy. Aldo Rustichini’s current research focuses on decision theory, microeconomic theory, models of bounded rationality, economic dynamics, and microeconomic theory.

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**Insects and Us: The Love-Hate Bond Between Humans and Bugs**

Susan Weller, Entomology

Spring 2009  
ENT 1905, Section 001  
1 credit  
Monday, 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.  
St. Paul  
77870

Insects have had a major impact on human history and culture, from antiquity to the present. We will explore how insects have influenced our past and how they influence our modern society as pollinators, vectors of disease, major competitors for our food, and as model systems (“Can we build better robots if robots behave like ants or cockroaches?”). We’ll examine our own cultural stereotypes (“Why do so many people hate insects?”), track insects in the news, and have weekly discussions of these topics. This seminar is appropriate for students who have an interest in science and in relating it to their everyday lives.

**Susan Weller** studies the evolution of moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera) is a curator in the Bell Museum. When she is not teaching or doing research on the molecular biology and anatomy of tiger moths and their relatives, she is involved in public outreach projects.
State of the World 2009

Terrence H. Cooper, Soil, Water & Climate

Spring 2009
ESPM 1905, Section 001
1 credit
Monday, 12:50 – 1:40 p.m.
St. Paul
74448

Using the State of the World 2009 from the World Watch Institute as the text, this seminar will focus on student-lead discussion of the topics presented. Worldwatch's flagship annual remains the most authoritative “go-to” resource for those who understand the importance of nurturing a safe, sane, and healthy global environment through both policy and action. Previous seminars have explored the myriad ways urbanization is affecting our lives and the global environment with a special focus on the ideas that can make our cities environmentally sustainable and healthier places to live. The topics in State of the World 2009, will be announced in January 2009.

Terence H. Cooper has been teaching soil science and environmental science courses since 1980. He is interested in environmental review, urban soils and soil morphology and uses many different teaching activities to assist students in learning course materials.

Recreation Trail Design

Mel Baughman, Forest Resources
Stephan Carlson, Forest Resources

Spring 2009
FR 1901, Section 001
LE: Environment
3 credits
Monday, 4:05 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul

Trail systems must be designed to offer different recreational activities, meet the experiential needs of users with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and provide different types of experiences (from rugged wilderness trails to trails for persons with disabilities). Trails should be designed to facilitate learning about the natural world without damaging the natural environments through which they pass. Topics that will be covered in this seminar include: assessing user needs; trail planning; where to place trails in the landscape; construction standards; clearing rocks and trees; shaping the tread; sign information and design; structures for crossing obstacles; funding sources; maintenance; trail crew management; and trail user manuals. Pre-requisites: enjoy hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, snowmobiling, ATVs, or canoeing. Mandatory weekend field trip required (April 24-26).

Mel Baughman is Extension Forester and Area Program Leader. He conducts research on forest policies and extension programs for private forest landowners, but his passions are trail design, wilderness canoeing, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

Stephan Carlson is an Associate Professor in Extension who specializes in environmental interpretation and communication, especially signage, exhibit development, and interpretive planning.
Magic in the Contemporary World

Stuart McLean, Global Studies

Spring 2009
GLOS 1909W, Section 001
LE: International Perspective, Writing Intensive
3 credits
Days & Time TBD
Location TBD
Class # TBD

What do we understand by “magic” and what is its place in today’s world? Beliefs and practices relating to magic, witchcraft, ghosts and the supernatural have sometimes been dismissed as “backward” and “irrational” and therefore likely to disappear as societies throughout the world increasingly identify themselves as “modern”, yet such beliefs and practices continue to flourish on a global scale in the world of the early twenty-first century. This seminar investigates magic as a contemporary phenomenon interwoven with political events, socioeconomic transformations and new technological developments. We begin by reviewing some classic anthropological studies of magic, before considering a number of case studies documenting the role of magic and associated phenomena in contemporary life. Students will be encouraged to think creatively and critically about the world we live in, the terms in which historical change is understood and, not least, what it means to define ourselves as “modern”.

Stuart McLean is an anthropologist by training. His research interests include creativity and imagination, historical memory and the ways in which large-scale historical transformations are experienced in everyday contexts. Much of his work is informed by a sense that the contemporary world often diverges from some of the classic accounts of the “modernization” process proposed by the social sciences.

Social Media? Mass Media, Social Networks, and the Internet

Brian Southwell, Journalism & Mass Communication

Spring 2009
JOUR 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
91365

Does Facebook matter? Is it possible that new applications for connecting people online offer more than just entertainment? This seminar will explore what we know about the emergence of new social networking technologies in the context of electronic media and mass communication. We will build our discussion on what we know about the roles of interpersonal connection in understanding mass media effects. We then will ask whether new technologies offer new wrinkles and innovations that might change how information spreads through society in the future.

Brian Southwell’s research has appeared in journals such as Communication Research, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Communication Monographs, and the Journal of Communication. Southwell is a member of the editorial boards of Communication Research, Health Communication, and Science Communication, among other journals. In 2006, he was awarded the Arthur “Red” Motley Exemplary Teaching Award by the College of Liberal Arts.
Comics as Art

Roy T. Cook, Philosophy

Spring 2009
PHIL 1905, Section 001
3 credits
Wednesday, 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
West Bank, Minneapolis
74524

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: Art Speigelman’s Holocaust memoir *Maus* won a Pulitzer Prize; Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ graphic novel *Watchmen* appeared on *Time* Magazine’s Top 100 Novels of All Time list, and Chris Ware’s *Jimmy Corrigan, The Smartest Kid on Earth* won the prestigious 2002 Guardian First Book Award.

The last decade has seen an explosion of critical work on comics. Philosophers, historians, art critics, and comic creators themselves are treating comics as a suitable topic for analysis and examination. In other words, comics are now recognized not just as lighthearted entertainment, but as art.

**Roy Cook** has a special interest in philosophical thought about the popular or ‘mass’ 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. In recent years, his tastes have changed and he prefers darker, more troubled superheroes (such as the Batman) and independent comics. He believes you can tell the difference between a normal person and authentic nerd by whether they say “Batman” or “THE Batman”.

Win Friends and Influence People with Physics

Cynthia Cattell, Physics

Spring 2009
PHYS 1905, Section 001
2 credits
Tuesday, 2:30 – 4:35 p.m.
Tate Laboratory of Physics 130, East Bank, Minneapolis
71210

Learn some physics and get that boost you need in life. That’s right. A little physics knowledge can go a long way and can elevate your standing with friends and family alike. Did you take AP Physics and miss many labs and demonstrations? Did you choose not to take physics because you thought it was:

- too hard?
- too boring?
- too much math?
- all of the above?
- none of the above?

This seminar is designed to show you that the correct answer is e. Learn the physics in your world in an engaging and active way. You will build and manipulate demonstration and lab equipment that helps you investigate the physics in your world. Learn and investigate topics that range from rolling to rocket science, from buoyancy to Bernoulli, from pendulums to plucked guitar strings, and from light behavior to lenses to name a few.

**Cynthia Cattell** does research on the aurora, particle acceleration in space plasmas and shocks and is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. She is a member of the ‘Physics Force’ team doing thrilling large-scale Physics shows across Minnesota. She will be joined in the class by Jon Anderson, another Physics Force member and Teacher-in-Residence.
The Science and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction

Murray Jensen, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Spring 2009
PSTL 1903, Section 001
LE: Citizenship & Public Ethics
3 credits
Wednesday, 12:20 – 2:50 p.m.
Appleby Hall 223, East Bank, Minneapolis
71396

The science of genetics and reproduction involves learning the basics of DNA, fertilization, embryos, developmental biology, etc., as well as new developments in the science of becoming pregnant, such as in vitro fertilization techniques, as well as new science to prevent pregnancy while still being sexually active, such as the morning after pill.

The political portion of the course will revolve around bioethics; the hard work involved in making decisions surrounding genetics, DNA, sex, and reproduction. Topics will range from personal decisions (e.g., using a condom), to federal law, (e.g., Roe vs. Wade), and even world politics (e.g., the one child rule in China). Cultural and religious traditions will be used as a framework for many topics and special consideration will be given to the lessons learned from our country’s history with eugenics.

Murray Jensen has taught freshman biology, human anatomy and physiology, several freshman seminars, and graduate courses on the use of technology in education. His research interests include cooperative learning, technology enhanced learning, and evolution education. Murray is a member of the U of M’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers and was awarded the 2001 Morse Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

Unlike Terms: Charting Pathways to Global Development

Susan Staats, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Spring 2009
PSTL 1904, Section 001
LE: International Perspectives
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45 – 2:00 p.m.
Appleby Hall 226, East Bank, Minneapolis
78874

Quality of human life – in terms of access to basic resources, health and economic living standard – varies dramatically across the globe. This interdisciplinary class uses social, ecological and quantitative perspectives to study the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals to reduce abject poverty and inequality across the world. International issues covered include deforestation, global warming, urbanization and women’s and children’s health. The Millennium Project charts pathways to global development that may provide a more equitable future for all of the world’s people. Students will be able to develop their own reaction to significant international issues. One of the interdisciplinary goals of this class is to provide students a means of improving their algebra skills in a meaningful, humanistic context. There is no math prerequisite.

Susan Staats is an assistant professor of mathematics in Postsecondary Teaching and Learning as well as a cultural anthropologist with field experience in indigenous communities of Guyana, South America.

Linda Buturian, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Spring 2009
PSTL 1906W, Section 001
LE: Environment & Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Appleby Hall 223, East Bank, Minneapolis 78080

In this seminar, students have an opportunity to learn about water from various disciplines including art, literature, and environmental science. Selected readings, guest speakers, and films will help us understand how the ecosystem functions, inform us on challenges involving access to clean water, inspire us with artistic endeavors, and educate us about some of the efforts going on at the University and beyond to protect and celebrate the gift of clean water. Students will have an opportunity to write digital stories and create multimedia projects related to water. This seminar is an exciting, hands-on experience from a multidisciplinary perspective, about a resource we can’t live without.

Linda Buturian is a senior teaching specialist in writing and literature and has taught writing for over ten years. Buturian publishes in both fiction and non-fiction, and has received grants and awards for her writing as well as her teaching. Her essay collection, World Gone Beautiful: Life Along the Rum River, was released in May of 2008.

Exploring Diversity Through a Popular Culture Lens

Jeanne Higbee, Postsecondary Teaching & Learning

Spring 2009
PSTL 1907W, Section 001
LE: Cultural Diversity & Writing Intensive
3 credits
Monday, 1:25 – 3:50 p.m.
Appleby Hall 226, East Bank, Minneapolis 74510

This course introduces topics related to diversity in the U.S. The goal is to promote understanding and acceptance of cultural and individual differences. We will view diverse social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, gender, class, sexual orientation, language, disability) through the lens of popular culture and examine stereotypes that shape attitudes.

Jeanne Higbee has worked in higher education since 1974 and has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and service. Her research focuses on access and success for students from historically marginalized populations, and includes publications co-authored by undergraduate students. She is an international leader in the implementation and dissemination of Universal Instructional Design and believes strongly in using multiple approaches to teaching, learning, and assessing knowledge.
The Truth About High Stakes Testing

Nathan Kuncel, Psychology

Spring 2009
PSY 1905, Section 001
3 credits
TuTh, 12:45-2:00 p.m.
Elliot Hall N227, East Bank, Minneapolis
71696

This seminar will review a wide range of topics surrounding what intelligence tests, ranging from the ACT to Stanford Binet, actually measure and how they are related to important life outcomes, including important things like death, divorce, academic success, and work performance. We will explore the nature of intelligence and creativity, dig into twin and neurological research on IQ, and root around in several mysteries in psychological science, including dramatic increases in IQs in the U.S. over the preceding decades, birth order effects, and the influence of parenting behaviors on intelligence and life outcomes. The seminar will be focused on learning and discussing quantitative research results with the goal of linking them to public policy.

Nathan Kuncel studies the prediction and structure of academic and job performance. His goal is to understand what behaviors constitute academic success, as well as to obtain a complete understanding of all of the characteristics of students that are related to their success in school, including both cognitive and hard-to-measure characteristics like motivation and drive. Some of this research has yielded national and international media attention which, Kuncel says, “has been fun and frightening for a bookish introvert like me.” He also does research on faking personality tests and on the background of children that influences subsequent success, including socio-economic status and parental involvement.
**Psychopaths and Serial Killers**

Christopher Patrick, Psychology

Spring 2009  
PSY 1910W, Section 001  
3 credits  
LE: Writing Intensive  
Tuesday, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Elliot Hall N423, East Bank, Minneapolis  
91373

Psychopathic personality has been described as a “mask of sanity”. The term “psychopath” brings to mind the image of a crazed or sadistic serial killer. However, psychopaths do not meet legal or conventional psychiatric criteria for insanity, and while it is probably true that most serial killers are psychopathic, most psychopaths are not homicidal. In this seminar, existing diagnostic criteria for psychopathic personality will be reviewed and distinctions between this and other psychiatric disorders will be discussed. Using case histories, we will examine different expressions of the psychopathic personality, including criminal and successful types, as well as the serial murderer. Other topics will include: psychopaths in history, literature, and film; personality profiling; causal factors in criminal and psychopathic behavior; and research on emotion and thought processes in psychopaths.

**High School: Moments, Memories and Meanings**

Michael Baizerman, Social Work

Spring 2009  
SW 1905, Section 001  
2 credits  
Thursday, 3:00 – 5:45 p.m.  
74 Peters Hall, St. Paul  
75190

In this seminar, students are given the opportunity to critically reflect on their high school years within the context of their new university career. Using readings, visits, media and discussion, they are invited back to high school to make sense out of that experience and of themselves as adolescent students, and also to critique the social organization, pedagogy and personalities of their high school experience.

**Mike Baizerman** has been at the University since 1972, teaching courses in youth development and is active in youth civic engagement work in Northern Ireland and in other divided and contested societies.
**Theatre: Entertainment With Attitude**

David Bernstein, Theatre Arts & Dance

Fall 2009
TH 1911W, Section 001
LE: Writing Intensive
3 credits
Thursday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Rarig Center 550B, West Bank, Minneapolis 24468

This seminar will introduce non-theatre majors to the richness and diversity of live theatre, through performance and text. We will attend performances at a variety of Twin Cities theatres and use this experience to develop a critical eye and a critical language for thinking about live performance. Our viewing will be supplemented by in-class discussions and talks with theatre and dance professionals.

**David Bernstein** has thirty years of professional management and artistic experience in the nonprofit theatre world. He is a founding member of the Attic Theatre in Detroit and founder/managing director of the Performing Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Freshman Seminar Notes
Use this worksheet to track the seminars you are interested in taking.

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This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request.

Please contact the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education 234 Morrill Hall (612) 626-9425.