



freshman

SEMINARS

2022-2023



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®



Dear Class of 2026:

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA!

Undoubtedly, you have seen the words “Driven to Discover” around campus and noticed the “What Drives You?” posters. 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 generate electricity, or the discovery of new technology, such as robots designed to protect troops from harm. But discovery at the U is also about the discovery you are embarking on to find your place in the world – who you are, what you value, what you aspire to be. We are here to help you with these important discoveries.

This booklet will introduce you to an exciting array of small courses designed just for you, the Class of 2026. Studies from around the country have repeatedly shown that students do well in college and enjoy the experience more when they get to know faculty members and other students. Freshman Seminars are designed to help you do just that. They are limited to 15 to 20 first year students, so you will have a real opportunity to get to know other students in your class and to interact with a faculty member who will guide you and help you make the adjustment to college.

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

So open your mind, explore the richness the University has to offer, learn what drives our faculty, and discover what drives you!

Leslie Schiff
Associate Dean for the University Curriculum
Office of Undergraduate Education

Freshman Seminars

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

What to expect in a Freshman Seminar:

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

As you prepare for Orientation, you are encouraged to look through Freshman Seminars for ones that may interest you. If you have questions about any of the Freshman Seminars, contact your academic advisor.

How to search online for Freshman Seminars

1. Log onto MyU (myu.umn.edu) and click on the **Academics** tab.
2. Select **Class Search** on the bottom of the screen.
3. Once you have entered Class Search, verify that Twin Cities/Rochester is selected in the **Institution** field. Then choose either Fall 2022 or Spring 2023 in the **Term** field.

- Note: Freshman seminars are unique because you can register for a spring semester course at the same time as you're registering for your fall courses. Make sure to check out both Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 for freshman seminars that interest you!
4. Then, in the **Course Attribute** field, select **Freshman Seminar**.
5. At this point, if you click **Search**, you will get a list of all freshman seminars being offered during the selected semester. It is helpful to select **Show Open Classes Only** before clicking Search if you only want to view courses that still have available seats. If you are interested in putting your name on a waitlist for a course, do not select **Show Open Classes Only**. In order to narrow down your results, you can also use the **Additional Search Criteria** section to find seminars that fit into certain time slots or are taught by specific instructors, etc.
6. After you have generated a list of seminars that fit your desired parameters, you can click on the section or class number to view more details about the class, including a brief description.
7. To register for a seminar, click **Select** on the right hand side of the course information and follow the instructions to add it to your **Enrollment Shopping Cart**.

Freshman Seminars Abroad

Several of the Freshman Seminars listed in this booklet also include a study abroad opportunity. Freshman Seminars Abroad are a great introduction to studying abroad! These seminars combine on-campus instruction during spring semester 2023 with a study abroad component over spring break. You will receive three credits for a Freshman Seminar Abroad, and many fulfill a liberal education requirement.

To participate, apply through the Learning Abroad Center. There are deadlines to apply for Freshman Seminars Abroad. For more information, visit: UMabroad.umn.edu/fsa or contact Amy at garw0005@umn.edu and Jemma at lund1495@umn.edu.

Spring 2023 Freshman Seminars Abroad:

BIOL 1904: Innovation and Imagination in Ireland, Page 14

John Ward, Plant Biology

Study Abroad in Ireland

DTCH 1912: Amsterdam and the World, Page 20

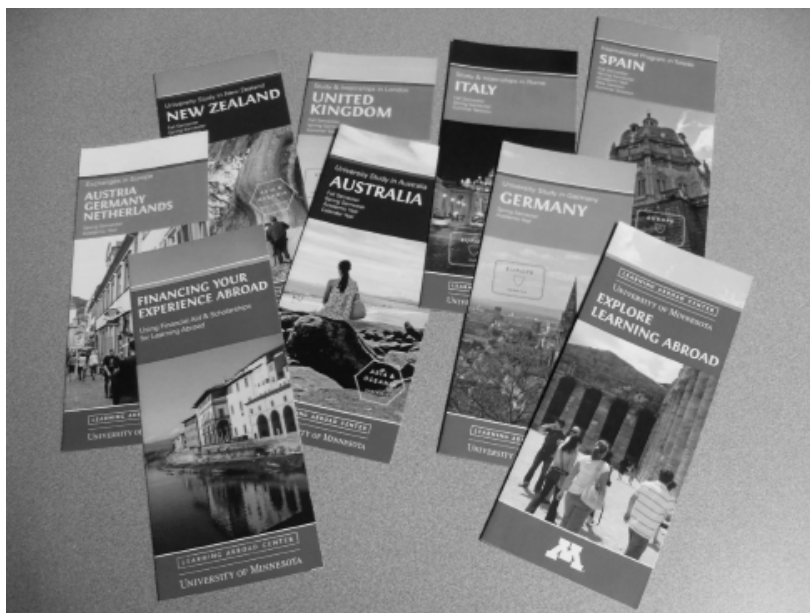
Jenneke Oosterhoff, German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch

Study Abroad in Amsterdam

ENGL 1922: Shakespeare in London and Stratford, Page 21

Katherine Scheil, English

Study Abroad in London



This symbol indicates a Freshman Seminar Abroad



2022-23 Seminars Alphabetical by Designator

ACCT	1901	The Language of Business	11
AEM	1301	Ballooning: Design, Build, and Fly	11
AMES	1915	Objections to 'Members Only': Female Participants in All-Male Classical Music in Japan	12
AMST	1912	Baseball and American Culture	12
ANTH	1911W	Changing Human Adaptations	13
APEC	1905	The Ordinary Business of Life: Issues in Business, Government, and Macroeconomics	13
APEC	1906	The Farm Bill's Impact on You	13
ARTH	1915	Broadcasts: Art, the Media, and Political Turmoil, the 1960s and Today	13
ARTH	1916	Witches, Ghosts, and Evil Clowns: Figures of Fear in Art, Folklore, and Popular Culture	14
ARTS	1914	Say Something, Make Something: Art and Language	14
BIOL	1904	Innovation and Imagination in Ireland	14
BIOL	1912	Photographing the University Community	14
BIOL	1915	Genomics in Your Current and Future Life	15
BIOL	1917	Experimental Evolution	15
BIOL	1921	The Nexus Between Art and Biology	15
BIOL	1928	Inventing Nature: The Art and Science of Natural History	15
BIOL	1929	Drawn to Nature: Observing the World Around Us	16
BIOL	1930	What Can Jellyfish Tell Us about Human Eyes? The Evolution of Animal Sensory Systems	17
BIOL	1942	The History, Science, and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction	17
CHEM	1903	Chemistry in the Kitchen	17
CHEM	1911W	Quantum Mechanics and Popular Philosophy	17
CHEM	1915	"Seeing is Believing." How Do We See in Science?	18
CI	1908	Children and Other Talking Animals: Animal Tales in (Mostly) Children's Literature	18
COMM	1921	True Crime Media	18
CSCL	1914W	What is a Poem?	18
CSCL	1918	The Hollywood Musical, in one term	19
DES	1407	Fashion and Feminism: Dressing for Change	19
DES	1411	Design Inquiries in Geography and Ecology	19
DES	1412	i House : i Home	20
DES	1904	Fashion and Music	20
DTCH	1912	Amsterdam and the World	20
EDHD	1904	Globalizing your Undergraduate Curriculum	21
ENGL	1917	Libraries: Exploring the Spaces of Knowledge	21
ENGL	1922	Shakespeare in London and Stratford	21
ENGL	1923	Very Short Poems	22
ENT	1906	Magnificent, Miniature Minds: From Dancing Honeybees to Cyborgs	22
ENT	1909	Got Bees? Declines and Conservation of Honey Bees and Native Bees	22
ESCI	1902	Geology of Minnesota	23
ESCI	1908	Sea Change: Geological Perspective	23
FNRM	1902	Satellites to Drones: Monitoring our Changing Environment	23
GCC	1906	Rare Diseases: What it Takes to Be a Medical Orphan	24
GCC	1907	Environmental Grand Challenges: What Impact Will You Have?	24
GCC	1908	Ways of Knowing Science	25
GCC	1909	Introduction to Ecosystem Health: Challenges at the Intersection of Human, Animal, and Environmental	25
GCC	1911	Eleven Billion People: How Long Can Earth Sustain Humanity?	26
GEOG	1913	Living with Innovation	26
GEOG	1916	Social Justice and the Twin Cities	26
GLOS	1916	Do the Right Thing: Ethics and You	26
HIST	1923	Politics of Hunger: Food, Aid, and Globalization after WWII	27
HIST	1927	Radical Ecology in the Early United States	27
HIST	1928	The Bright Ages: Reimagining the Middle Ages	27
HIST	1929	History of and Through Board Games	28
ITAL	1912	Rome at the Movies from Fascism to Netflix	28
KIN	1904	An Olympic Impact on the World	28
LING	1913	Words at Work	28
MUS	1903	The Exploration of Gender Identity in Vocal Music	29
MUS	1912	Guitar Heroes	29

2021-22 Seminars Alphabetical by Designator, continued

MUS	1914W	Music in Nazi Germany & the Holocaust.....	29
MUS	1915	The Color of Music	30
MUS	1916	All About Music: Its Meaning, Reality, Communication, and Embodiment.....	30
PHIL	1918	Comics as Art.....	30
PHIL	1919	Africana Philosophy.....	31
PHYS	1910W	What is Time?.....	31
PHYS	1911W	How Likely is Extraterrestrial Life?.....	31
PSY	1916	Race in Everyday Space.....	31
PSY	1923	The Freshman 15: Stress and Health Management for College Students	32
PSY	1925	Neuroimaging in Psychology: Why Do Psychologists Use Magnets & Electrodes to Look at People's Brains	32
PSY	1926	Our Innovating Minds: Introducing the Cognitive and Brain Sciences of Individual and Group Creativity	32
SLHS	1914	Communication Disorders and Neurodiversity	32
SLHS	1916	The Singing Voice Through the Centuries.....	33
TH	1911W	Attending (to) Theater	33
TH	1916	Living Well With the Dead: Afterlives and Ethics in Contemporary Culture	33
VPM	1901	Aquatic Toxicology, Water Safety, and the Society.....	34
VPM	1903	Poison, Poisoning and Society	34
VPM	1909	Systemic Racism, Injustice, and Inequality: Hurdles for a Unified and Sustainable Society	34
WRIT	1915W	Arguing with Authority: The Past, Present, and Future of Higher Education	35
WRIT	1925W	Magazines and New Media	35

Seminars by Interest Area

Arts, Design, and Music

ARTH	1915	Broadcasts: Art, the Media, and Political Turmoil, the 1960s and Today	13
ARTS	1914	See Something, Make Something: Art and Language	14
BIOL	1912	Photographing the University Community	14
DES	1407	Fashion and Feminism: Dressing for Change	19
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Biological and Environmental Sciences

BIOL	1904	Innovation and Imagination in Ireland	14
BIOL	1915	Genomics in Your Current and Future Life	15
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Culture and People



Seminars by Interest Area, continued

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Humanities and Social Sciences

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ENGL	1917	Libraries: Exploring the Spaces of Knowledge	21
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Literature and Film

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COMM	1921	True Crime Media	18
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Science and Technology

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How to Read the Freshman Seminar Booklet

	Changing Human Adaptations	Seminar Title
	ANTH 1911W	Course Designator
	3 Credits	
Liberal Education Requirement(s)	LE: ENV Writing Intensive	
	Spring 2023	Term Offered
Instructor & Department	Martha Tappen <i>Anthropology</i>	
Seminar Description	<p>Humans, like other species, are integral to the ecology of the earth. We display a series of adaptations that allow us to eat, grow, find mates, and raise offspring. Do humans have a fundamental ecological niche? How have humans adapted to climate change over time and space, for example, as we spread out of Africa, into Eurasia and then into the Americas? We consider how climate, environmental, and habitat reconstructions are made by scientists; and how diets, food acquisition strategies, geographic distribution, and social structure are known to paleoanthropologists. We consider changes in the human gut, tooth size, body size, and social behaviors. We also explore how long humans have made a significant impact on the environment, via hunting and overhunting, planting food, population growth and greenhouse gas emissions. When did the “Anthropocene” begin?</p>	
Instructor Biography	<p>Martha Tappen is a paleoanthropologist with research interests in the reconstruction of early human behavior and environments, especially from the time of the earliest Stone Age. She has worked with hunter gatherers in the Congo, and on archaeological sites in France, the Congo, Ethiopia, and post-Soviet Georgia. Currently, she is a principal investigator at the Homo erectus site of Dmanisi, Georgia, the earliest fossil site found out of Africa.</p>	

2022-2023 FRESHMAN SEMINARS

The Language of Business

ACCT 1911
3 Credits
Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Kendell Poch
Department of Accounting

Have you ever wondered why Tesla's stock price tripled in a 3-month time period? Why did Toys R Us go bankrupt? Why does Apple hold on to \$200 billion of cash? Why is Snapchat still not profitable yet? All of these questions can be answered by looking at a company's financial statements!

Financial accounting is often called the language of business as it is the language that companies use to communicate their financial information to various parties. Regardless of whether you want to work in the field of accounting and finance, become a manager at a company, or just dabble in stock market investing, understanding how a business works, how managers make decisions, and how to analyze financial statements will be hugely beneficial for your future.

This seminar will start by exposing you to basic business terminology and concepts, as well as analyzing how businesses make decisions. Next, we will focus on the ABCs of financial statements and financial analysis. Finally, we will apply these principles to real-life case studies and discussions that explore various companies such as Spotify, Tesla, Uber, Netflix, Starbucks, Apple, Snapchat, and more!

Kendell has been a full-time instructor with the Department of Accounting since Fall 2015. Previously she was an adjunct instructor for several years before permanently joining the department. Kendell worked at KPMG in their international tax consulting team for over 6 years and was a certified CPA (currently inactive). Kendell leads the department's online teaching initiatives and also acts as the Undergraduate Coordinator for the department assisting students looking at an Accounting major.

Ballooning: Design, Build, and Fly

AEM 1301
2 Credits
Fall 2022

James Flaten
Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics

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 hone "amateur-spacecraft" - building skills including light-weight-but-rugged structural assembly, microcontroller programming, soldering, wiring, and CAD. Then we will design and build miniature spacecraft and use relatively-inexpensive helium-filled weather balloons to carry them into the stratosphere (AKA "near-space"), which has many of the same physical properties (and view!) as outer space. The overarching theme for Fall 2022 payloads will be "Preparing for eclipse ballooning missions (to be conducted during solar eclipses in October 2023 and April 2024)."

The balloon launch and recovery will be a required day-long class activity on a weekend date in late October or early November. This activity is weather dependent, so the flight date will need to be flexible. A "primary" date and several back-up dates will be announced at the start of the semester. After the balloon flight, the remainder of the semester will involve data analysis as well as discussions and activities relating to full-fledged (i.e. outer space) spaceflight, including scientific accomplishments and engineering challenges of past, current, and future space missions.

Dr. James Flaten is the Associate Director of NASA's Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, a higher education program whose goals include promoting interest in space science and space exploration. Though housed in the Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics (AEM) department, Dr. Flaten's formal academic background is actually in

experimental physics and he has also taught many physics, astronomy, and basic engineering classes in the past. He particularly enjoys using high-power rocketry and helium-ballooning (stratospheric free ballooning and lighter-than-air RC airships) as low-cost means of giving students hands-on experience building and flying hardware.

Objections to ‘Members Only’: Female Participants in All-Male Classical Music in Japan

AMES 1915
3 Credits
Global Perspectives
Fall 2022

Maki Isaka
*Asian & Middle Eastern
Studies*



The performing arts in Japan that the seminar uses as a case study is *gidayū* music. The audio component of the four-century-old puppet theater in Japan now known as *bunraku*, *gidayū* is usually if not always conducted by two musicians: string-music played by an instrumentalist and the entire lines of all characters on stage narrated solo by a single chanter, who also sings descriptive recitation. *Bunraku* is an all-male theater, and *gidayū* all-male theatrical vocal-music. Female performers have long been playing *gidayū* as stand-alone music, however, almost always under men's names and sometimes in men's clothing. In premodern times (through 1867), when females' were prohibited from participating in performing arts since 1629-proclamations, female *gidayū* players frequently endured such drastic ordeals as bans, property-confiscation, and incarceration imposed by samurai authorities. In modern times (from 1868 to date), these female performers were no longer subject to such physically violent sentence, but epistemological turmoil they faced was no less radical. The seminar will pay attention to these female musicians. In addition, since the instructor knows some contemporary female *gidayū* musicians in person, the seminar might have an opportunity to learn their stories from themselves, possibly using such technology as Zoom (contingent).

Maki Isaka (Professor, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) works on mainly three topics: gender theory both within and beyond Asian contexts, literature in

Japan, and performing arts in Japan. Her current research project is on female musicians of an “all-male” traditional music in Japan. Outside of her critical research, Professor Isaka has enjoyed working with horses.



Baseball and American Culture

AMST 1912
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Timothy Face
Spanish & Portuguese Studies

To an extent not seen in any other sport, America's National Pastime is intertwined with the very fabric of life in America, and this is reflected in the prominent place of baseball in American cultural production such as film and literature. On the one hand, baseball provides a means through which the American dream has often been viewed and has itself been viewed as an idyllic representation of that dream and all that is good about American culture. But on the other hand, throughout history baseball has also reflected many of the struggles seen in the broader society. Whether it be racism, the realities of war, the place of women, the labor movement and unionization, or any of a number of other issues, baseball has provided a view into societal issues; sometimes leading the way and shining a spotlight on the issues and sometimes lagging behind other parts of society in dealing with the issues. Throughout this course we will look at these different sides of the connection between baseball and American culture.

Timothy Face is a professor of Hispanic linguistics who works with the sound system of Spanish and its acquisition by native speakers of English.

Changing Human Adaptations

ANTH 1911W
3 Credits
LE: Environment
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

Martha Tappen
Anthropology

Humans, like other species, are integral to the ecology of the earth. We display a series of adaptations that allow us to eat, grow, find mates, and raise offspring. Do humans have a fundamental ecological niche? How have humans adapted to climate change over time and space, for example, as we spread out of Africa, into Eurasia and then into the Americas? We consider how climate, environmental, and habitat reconstructions are made by scientists; and how diets, food acquisition strategies, geographic distribution, and social structure are known to paleoanthropologists. We consider changes in the human gut, tooth size, body size, and social behaviors. We also explore how long humans have made a significant impact on the environment, via hunting and overhunting, planting food, population growth and greenhouse gas emissions. When did the "Anthropocene" begin?

Martha Tappen is a paleoanthropologist with research interests in the reconstruction of early human behavior and environments, especially from the time of the earliest Stone Age. She has worked with hunter gatherers in the Congo, and on archaeological sites in France, the Congo, Ethiopia, and post-soviet Georgia. Currently, she is a principal investigator at the Homo erectus site of Dmanisi, Georgia, the earliest fossil site found out of Africa.

The Ordinary Business of Life: Issues in Business, Government, and Macroeconomics

APEC 1905
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Gary Cooper
Applied Economics

The world of economics is sometimes referred to as the study of the ordinary business of life. 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. While the first quarter of our meetings will be on business and economic history to provide context (the "Economic Revolution," the Federal Reserve System, and the role of government in the economy), the second quarter of class will analyze macro issues related to the domestic and world economies (economic growth, income inequality, the New Economy, and globalization). The third and fourth quarters of our time together will be micro-related.

As part of this class, we will investigate the fields of leadership and business ethics through a series of readings and films. In addition, throughout the term some of our class discussions will be dedicated to helping you make your transition to and navigation of the University a smooth one.

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

The Farm Bill's Impact on You

APEC 1906
1 Credit
Fall 2022

Michael Boland
Applied Economics

The Farm Bill has widespread bipartisan support from the U.S. Congress. The course looks at each component of the most recent Farm Bill: Crop insurance, commodities, forestry, rural development, food aid, trade, nutrition including school nutrition, SNAP and WIC, research, extension, and education, and other components. Each week will include a look at one component and students will choose a component to write short essays and oral presentations looking at the history, authorization and appropriation language, and how it is implemented by USDA. Each class will include a short remote presentation by a CFANS faculty member discussing how their research fits within that week's component. Students will meet with the instructor individually to discuss their essays and presentations.

Michael (Mike) Boland, Ph.D., holds the Koller endowed professorship in agribusiness management and information technology and is a professor of agricultural economics in the Department of Applied Economics in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota. In addition, he is director of the University of Minnesota Food Industry Center. Much of Boland's research involves public-private partnerships, and he also teaches educational modules on finance, governance, and strategic thinking in boards of director leadership programs, board retreats, and similar programs for cooperatives, credit unions, and mutual insurance firms.

Broadcasts: Art, the Media, and Political Turmoil, the 1960s and Today

ARTH 1915
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Jane Blocker
Art History

Violence, racial reckoning, war, and media manipulation, the 1960s and the 2000s are periods of political turmoil where artists examine, question and create alternatives to the news media. This course studies artistic responses to such public crises as the Kennedy Assassination and the Capitol Insurrection, the Vietnam War and Black Lives Matter.

Jane Blocker is Professor of Art History at the University of Minnesota. She is author of four books of contemporary art history that engage performance, gender and sexuality, and critical race studies: *Becoming Past: History in Contemporary Art*; *Seeing Witness: Visuality and the Ethics of Testimony*; *What the Body Cost: Desire, History, and Performance*; and *Where is Ana Mendieta? Identity, Performativity, and Exile*. She has published articles in many interdisciplinary journals including *The Drama Review*, *Performance Research*, *Grey Room*, *Art Journal*, *Camera Obscura*, *Cultural Studies*, and *Performing Arts Journal*, and contributed essays to numerous anthologies.

Witches, Ghosts, and Evil Clowns: Figures of Fear in Art, Folklore, and Popular Culture

ARTH 1916
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Peter Harle
Art History

From ancient images through popular culture and social media, our art, stories, and beliefs have been filled with figures of fear. The returning dead, people with weird powers, demons, monsters, and mad killers haunt our dreams, but also seem to show up during waking hours. People have committed acts of violence based on fears of such beings. Yet we are also drawn to them, depicting and playing with them, and taking on their guises to scare ourselves for fun. This course will investigate these figures of fear, using approaches from art history, folklore, anthropology, and other fields. We will read a variety of texts, and will also encounter and think about legends, art, movies, literature, games, costumes, haunted houses, and objects used for magic and protection. This course will help you build skills of close observation and visual analysis, learn surprising things about your own surroundings, think critically about culture, and deepen your appreciation for the cultural knowledge and play of communication that make folklife, art, and popular culture so rich and remarkable.

Peter Harle is a folklorist whose research interests include cemeteries, divination games, and home shrines. He advises students for the departments of Art History, Anthropology, and Philosophy.

Say Something, Make Something: Art and Language

ARTS 1914
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Emmett Ramstad
Art

Say Something, Make Something: Art and Language focuses on the ways contemporary artists use, re-use, and re-interpret language in their artworks. By utilizing the written word, artists expand their practice from traditional art materials to engage with the interdisciplinary field of language. Utilizing their interests and abilities in a variety of subjects and media, students in this course create works that are personal, engage audiences, and comment on the world around us. Classes include discussions of readings, writing warm-ups, demonstrations of technical skills, visiting artists, field trips, and more. Students will undertake a number of small writing assignments, complete three main art projects, attend art-related field trips, and participate in group discussion. Students learn and utilize a variety of art techniques in this course, including writing, photography, bookmaking, and printmaking.

Emmett Ramstad is a sculptor who teaches performance, professional practices, ethics, printmaking and more. Emmett's goal as a teacher is to nurture creativity and critical thinking in his students, he believes all students enter the classroom creative, intelligent, and curious and his role as a teacher is to provide them with the right learning environment, curriculum and encouragement to help them build upon their inherent intelligence and to challenge them to think critically, interdisciplinarily and intersectionally. In his sculptures, Emmett re-uses ordinary objects such as: worn toothbrushes, socks with holes, bathtubs and tissues, encouraging the viewer to have a new relationship to products frequently ignored in art contexts.

Innovation and Imagination in Ireland



BIOL 1904
3 Credits
LE: Global Perspectives
Study Abroad
Spring 2023

John Ward
Plant and Microbial Biology

Sundials, color photography, stethoscopes, iPhones. Our world is continually shaped by great ideas. This class will explore components of education, culture, and business management that cultivate creativity and innovation. We will study current examples of success and failure. As a class we will move beyond our natural constraints and travel abroad over spring break to Dublin to understand the rich Irish history of innovation across disciplines, including art, science, and technology. Dublin is the emerging "heart of technology in Europe" and home to a slew of start-ups and to proven juggernauts such as Google, Facebook, and AirBnB. Learn why and how this shift from an agricultural-based economy has occurred. We will also look at current and historical practices in the Irish economy, cultivated through public policy, government agencies such as the Industrial Development Authority, foreign direct investment, and multinational companies.

This course involves a study abroad component to Ireland during Spring Break 2023. Please note that you must also apply and confirm your spot for this seminar through the Learning Abroad Center. Application deadline is: December 1, 2022. For more information, visit: <https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/innovation-imagination-ireland> or contact Amy at garw0005@umn.edu.

John Ward is a professor in Plant and Microbial Biology in the College of Biological Sciences. He teaches Plant Cell Biology and study abroad courses. Dublin is one of the centers of innovation in Europe. Dr. Ward is excited to share Ireland's history, culture, literary tradition, politics, etc. with students in the context of their effect on innovation and imagination.

Photographing the University Community

BIOL 1912
2 Credits
Fall 2022

Robert Roon
Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics

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

Robert Roon is a veteran of more than 45 years of university teaching in the area of biochemistry. His eclectic interests range from neuroscience to Northwest Coast Native American Art. One guiding principle of his life has been the firm conviction that "man shall not live by bread alone." That phrase from Matthew 4:4 has a non-literal meaning that transcends any specific religion. It suggests that in order to live a healthy and productive life, it is essential to have some creative outlet that connects us to our biological heritage. This runs contrary to the current tendency to interact with others and with the larger world via electronic venues.

Genomics in Your Current and Future Life

BIOL 1915
1 credit
Fall 2022

Perry Hackett
Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development

Our understanding of DNA and genomes has infiltrated every aspect of society including medicine (diagnosis and susceptibilities to disease as well as developing new gene-based therapies, including gene therapy), CSI, ethics, GMOs for sustainable agriculture, and even designing our kids' genomes. Class lectures and all reading material will be available online.

Students will share their thoughts on a variety of controversial issues both online. In class, we will use the on-line blogs and lecture material as a starting points to discuss further various aspects of different applications of modern precision genetic technologies. The fundamental goal of the class is to encourage students to develop their processes of thinking about, and discussing in a small group, current complex and controversial issues. No final papers and no final exam.

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

Experimental Evolution

BIOL 1917
3 credits
Fall 2022

Mike Travisano
Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

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

Mike Travisano studies the origin of biological complexity using experimental evolution with microbes. Their current research is funded by NASA for understanding the origins of life.

The Nexus Between Art and Biology

BIOL 1917
2 credits
Fall 2022

Robert Roon
Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics

This seminar will explore the many and diverse interactions between art and biology. The topics covered range from the portrayal of biology in classic art, to the use of artistic venues for studying and remediating environmental problems, to the utility of photography, painting, sculpture, and other art forms to explore levels of biology ranging from molecular and cellular structures to landscapes. The course includes hands-on creation of artistic biological objects. Topics will be explored using recorded media and presentations by students, the instructor, and invited speakers to cover novel topics at the art/biology interface.

Robert Roon is a veteran of more than 45 years of university teaching in the area of biochemistry. His eclectic interests range from neuroscience to Northwest Coast Native American Art. One guiding principle of his life has been the firm conviction that "man shall not live by bread alone." That phrase from Matthew 4:4 has a non-literal meaning that transcends any specific religion. It suggests that in order to live a healthy and productive life, it is essential to have some creative outlet that connects us to our biological heritage. This runs contrary to the current tendency to interact with others and with the larger world via electronic venues.

Inventing Nature: The Art and Science of Natural History

BIOL 1928
2 credits
Spring 2023

Charlie Willis
Biology Teaching and Learning

Natural history is often presented as a series of dry facts about the world. But how were these facts arrived at, what kind of data are they based on, and who decided they were important? In this seminar, we will learn about the invention of modern natural history. We will collect specimens, practice scientific illustration, and visit real collections. We will explore the exploitative history of Western naturalists and how modern natural history can be expanded to include alternative knowledge systems. Finally, we will learn how natural history collections provide crucial data on how we have impacted the world, especially via climate change.

Charlie Willis is a professor in the Biology Teaching and Learning Department. He teaches several biology courses at the University, and is keen to share his passion for history, nature and science with his students. His research uses herbarium specimens and historical observations of phenological events like flowering, such as those made by Henry David Thoreau, to study the past and future impacts of climate change.



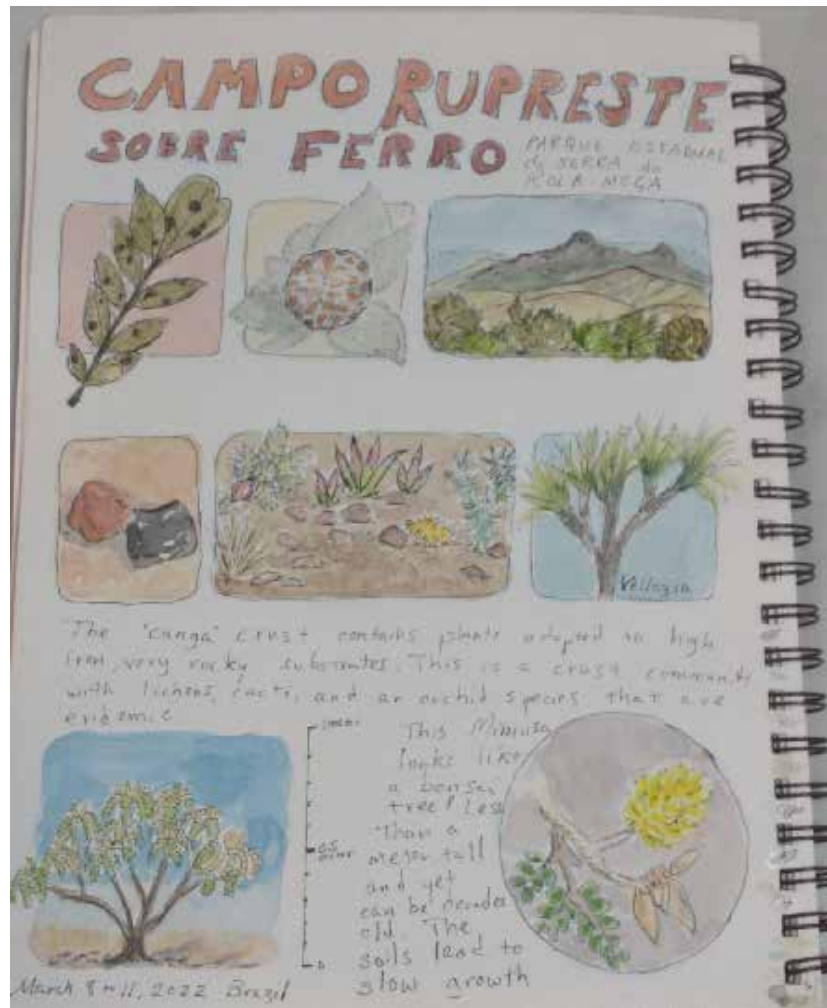
Drawn to Nature: Observing the World Around Us

BIOL 1929
1 Credit
Spring 2023

Jennifer Powers
*Ecology, Evolution and
Behavior*

Keeping a nature journal is one way to hone your skills of observation, enjoy the natural world around you, and relax. In this seminar we will explore nature through the practice of keeping a nature journal. Lessons will include the history of sketchbooks in exploration, approaches for starting your own journal, what materials to use, and how to get outside and start. There will be little reading, but all students are expected to participate and share their work weekly. Class will include field trips to the College of Biological Science Plant Conservatory and the Landscape Arboretum. No prior experience in art is required.

Jennifer Powers studies how tropical forests are affected by changes in land use and climate, with a focus on the trees, lianas, and soils in seasonally dry tropical forests. She has worked in many different countries and considers a sketchbook essential field equipment.



What Can Jellyfish Tell Us about Human Eyes? The Evolution of Animal Sensory Systems

BIOL 1930
1 Credit
Fall 2022

Kyle McCulloch
Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

If we tracked our ancestors back 750 million years ago, we'd see an animal whose offspring would later become humans and jellyfish. This animal would already have most of the same gene families that we do today. Genomic content, embryonic development, cell physiology, and animal behavior are fundamentally similar in all animals, with minor tweaks at the right moment resulting in organisms as different as a worm or a bird. This course will explore how evolution builds a trait, focusing on some of the best studied traits that can be compared across animals: visual systems. We will touch on how the fields of genomics, embryology, neurophysiology, and animal behavior are intertwined at sensory systems, and how they have helped us learn about Biology more broadly. We will explore examples from different animals, especially overlooked invertebrates, and understand how their study can help human health and society. Class will primarily be discussion and low-stakes presentations based on both assigned and student-chosen readings from scientific literature, pop sci. articles, and news sources.

Kyle McCulloch is a research assistant professor and an evolutionary biologist studying how complex traits like visual systems evolve and diversify. His interests have led him to study neurophysiology, embryology, behavior, and functional genomics in mice, zebrafish, butterflies, squid, and sea anemones. He is excited by the beauty of the diverse forms of life on earth, and how we can use this biodiversity to better understand Biology more generally, both in nature and human society.

The History, Science, and Politics of Genetics and Reproduction

BIOL 1942
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Murray Jensen
Biology Teaching and Learning

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

Murray Jensen is a Horace T. Morse Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Biology Teaching and Learning. His teaching areas include entry-level biology, human anatomy and physiology, and graduate level courses in STEM teaching and learning. His research areas focus on developing teaching strategies within active learning environments, and in 2007 he earned the Society for College Science Teachers Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award.

Chemistry in the Kitchen

CHEM 1903
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Chris Douglas
Chemistry

This seminar will look at the chemistry behind cooking and baking. In this course, we'll cover topics such as coffee roasting, gluten formation, caramelization, food preserving & preservatives, the science of ice cream, flavor chemistry, and how taste works. We will discuss some of the fundamental processes and chemical transformation that occur when we step into the kitchen. In addition to chemistry, this course will touch on interdisciplinary concepts from biochemistry, neuroscience, materials science, and physics.

Chris Douglas joined his alma mater on the chemistry faculty in 2007, where he has remained since. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Irvine in 2005 and was a NIH-NRSA postdoctoral fellow at Caltech before returning to UMN. He regularly teaches organic chemistry (2301, 2302, 2332H), organic synthesis (4321/8321), advanced organic chemistry (4322/8322), and physical organic chemistry (4352/8352). His research interests include reaction discovery, catalysis, mechanisms of chemical reactions, and making molecules.

Quantum Mechanics and Popular Philosophy

CHEM 1911W
2 Credits
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Doreen Leopold
Chemistry

One may argue about its causal role in these matters, but there is no doubt that the language of quantum mechanics has provided a powerful new set of metaphors with which to express our understanding of ourselves and our place in the overall scheme of things. We will begin with an introduction to some of the basic ideas of quantum mechanics, including the uncertainty principle and wave/particle duality, and discuss some of the quantum paradoxes that highlight the counter-intuitive nature of these concepts. We will then go on to discuss the reflection of these ideas in popular books, articles, and web sites concerning religion, mythology, and philosophy.

Doreen Leopold and her research group use anion photoelectron spectroscopy to study the structures and reactivities of transition metal clusters and organometallic radicals in the gas phase. She has been a member of the Chemistry faculty since 1986, and frequently also teaches "Chemical Principles" (Chem 1061 and 1062) and "Introduction to Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy" (Chem 4502).

“Seeing is Believing.” How Do We See in Science?

CHEM 1915
2 Credits
Fall 2022

Valérie Pierre
Chemistry

Science is predominantly an empirical field. At its core, the scientific method is based on the formulation and testing of hypotheses based on observations and measurements; but how do we “see” in science? Cells are too small to see with the naked eye, proteins and molecules are too small to be observed even with the most powerful microscopes. So how do scientists know a process is happening and what that process is? Many powerful techniques have been developed over the years to help scientists observe the systems of interest, each type of observation providing specific data. The data, however, are often subject to interpretation. We will discuss different imaging and characterization techniques widely used in Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, and Material Science. Classes will include field trips to several imaging and characterization facilities hosted by various Departments and Colleges on the Twin Cities campus and guest lectures by experts in specific techniques.

Valérie Pierre has been a member of the Chemistry faculty at the University of Minnesota since 2007. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley and was a postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology before coming to UMN. Her research group develops metal complexes to solve medical and environmental problems such as microbial infections, dialysis, and sustainable remediation of lakes and rivers.

Children and Other Talking Animals: Animal Tales in (Mostly) Children’s Literature

CI 1908W
3 Credits
LE: Civic Life and Ethics
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

Marek Oziewicz
Curriculum and Instruction

Humans and animals coexisted for millennia until humanity exiled itself from nature in order to rule it. In this course we look at the tradition of animal tales as the never-entirely-suppressed memory of this kinship and a hope for our future. We explore how animal tales have been used through the ages to reflect diverse ethical conceptualizations of the human relationship with animals and the natural world. We study the connections between children and/as talking animals. We read a range of animal tales and consider their meanings for the environmentally threatened global world.

Marek Oziewicz is a placental mammal who happens to be the Henry Professor of Children’s and Young Adult Literature in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. Dr. Oziewicz studies stories as a technology for recalibrating minds, developing environmental awareness, and justice literacy.

True Crime Media

COMM 1921
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Laurie Ouellette
Communication Studies

This seminar explores true crime as a compelling and enduring media genre that originated with the rise of mass media and now proliferates across television, the Internet, and newer media formats such as podcasting. We will examine the cultural history of true crime media and learn theories and techniques for analyzing the conventions, meanings, popular appeals, and the societal implications of today’s fascination with true crime-based entertainment. Topics for exploration include the popular mediation of crime and justice, the role of gender, race, sexuality, and class in true crime media, and the involvement of audiences as true crime spectators, fans, and interactive citizen detectives. We will also consider how true crime media influences public assumptions about criminality, safety, and police and legal justice reform.

Laurie Ouellette is a professor of critical media studies, specializing in the history and cultural politics of nonfiction media genres and formats. She watches a lot of Forensic Files and listens to true crime podcasts in the car.

What is a Poem?

CSCL 1914W
3 Credits
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

Cesare Casarino
*Cultural Studies &
Comparative Literature*

This is a course for people who love reading poetry as well as for people who would love to learn how to love reading poetry, and it should be much fun for both! We will examine some of the basic issues in the study of poetry, such as the changing meanings of the term “poetry,” the distinction between epic poetry and lyric poetry, the importance of the question of love for poetry, and so on. We will study a great variety of poems from different historical periods, literary traditions, and cultural contexts across the globe (including pop songs and music videos by contemporary singers and bands, some of which will be selected by the students). Above all, this is a course in close reading: we will study in detail how poems work, what it is that they do, and why. Ultimately, the question we will attempt to answer is why it is that poetry always has been and still continues to be one of the fundamental forms of human expression. To this purpose, we will discuss how to conduct literary analysis and students will have the opportunity to try their hand at literary criticism, i.e., by writing essays focused on one single poem.

A passion for poetry has accompanied Cesare Casarino throughout his life, which started in Italy and eventually brought him to the University of Minnesota, where he teaches, researches, and publishes on a variety of topics in literature, cinema, and philosophy.



The Hollywood Musical, in One Term

CSSL 1918
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Michelle Y Lekas
*Cultural Studies &
Comparative Literature*

Musicals, in theatrical form, span the globe and in cinema, date from the inception of recorded and projected sound. This course limits itself to the Hollywood Musical from 1927 onward, while staying in discussion with Bollywood musicals, Jacques Demy's French musical masterpieces, the musicals of sub-Saharan Africa (Come Back Africa, Sankofa, etc.) as well as examples including Carlos Saura's Carmen.

Because of its clear stages, i.e. early/pre-code, classical, punk, and DV, Hollywood musicals map a clear line that is crucial to know, to understand, to criticize and to deviate from in order to understand the genre's discrete characteristics and how they interact world-wide..

We will study these stages and their filmic examples, with attention to how music has come to specifically affect the film industry in regard to politics, economics, gender, sexual orientation, age, class and race.

Dr. Lekas earned her BAs at the University of Illinois (U-C), her MA at the University of Florida, and her PhD at UMT: dissertation, A Brief Epistemology of Seriality. Her theoretical approach stems from the annales school of historicism, and from Sartrian/Lacanian theory. She has taught at UF, Carleton College, Macalester College, McNallySmith College of Music, Hamline University, The Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and at UMT since 1988. Lekas has been teaching in the CSSL/SCMC Department since spring, 1988 and continues to research, mentor, organize, learn and write, most recently popular work for The Chiseler and Horror Homeroom, about deep and political meanings that emerge the interstices of film and music history. Her identificatory passion is increased modal education for non-native English speakers.

Fashion and Feminism: Dressing for Change

DES 1407
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Jean McElvain
Goldstein Museum of Design

This class explores the sometimes problematic relationship between fashion and feminism. Literature from first wave feminism reveals visceral tensions between fashion and the perceived value of women in society. Fashionable dress was considered constrictive, submissive, and indicative of women's diminished role in both private and public realms. Second wave feminism, which took place between approximately 1963 and 1975, did not often address fashion directly. However, there were dramatic changes in beauty ideals during this time. Second wave feminism reached mainstream culture through authors such as Simone de Beauvoir, Frances Beal, Betty Friedan, and Gloria Steinem.

To arrive at a stronger understanding of women's movements in the United States, readings will be selected that offer some context for major political and social movements during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Occasional short lectures will be given throughout the semester to highlight fashion history, providing context for readings. Additionally, the class will look at ways that women from different racial, social, and cultural backgrounds experienced feminism during the late 19th and 20th centuries, as well as today. Readings, videos, and in-class activities will be used to prompt students to reflect on their own practices and self-presentation. Small group discussion will be used frequently to get at deeper meanings behind readings. Clothing objects from the Goldstein Museum of Design's permanent collection will be used intermittently to study social mores and norms associated with women's changing roles in society.

Instructor Jean McElvain is the Associate Curator at the Goldstein Museum of Design, which is part of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. She has a Masters Degree in architecture and a PhD in apparel studies, with particular interest in gender identities, social power, and appearance management.

Design Inquiries in Geography and Ecology

DES 1411
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Meg Lundquist
Architecture

Take an interdisciplinary approach to exploring spatial and critical connections between design and ecosystems. This course introduces key concepts and critical readings on using maps as representation. Students will learn the basics of mapping geospatial data, as well as the wider context of cartography, scale, and representation. Assigned readings will acquaint students with interdisciplinary approaches to design and research. In this course, students will develop the skills to write effectively, and to visually and verbally present arguments. Students in this course will work individually and in teams to understand texts and create maps.

Meg Lundquist holds a degree in Environmental Studies from the College of St. Benedict and an M.Arch degree from the University of Minnesota. Her work creates connections between academia, practice, and ecology. She teaches to build collaboration among peers and form meaningful relationships.

i House : i Home

DES 1412
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Mark Tamborino
Architecture

Leonard E Reads 1958 essay entitled "I, Pencil; My Family Tree as Told to Leonard E. Read" sketches a remarkable tale of how the unique interests, talents, and motivations of countless individuals from around the world converge to produce pencils. This seminar follows a similar contour to discover the acts of countless individuals from around the world and then outline a story, a kind of family tree, of the individual efforts to create the materials and products that converge to make a house. Matthew Barzun in his book *The Power of Giving Power Way* describes the coming together of diverse interests, talents, and motivations as constellations of stars. Each star bright and unique and its own system. When we gaze into the sky, we can see each individual star. We also see stars together and patterns emerge creating constellations. Each constellation having its own story and stories reflecting a meaning beyond their pattern. In a similar way using Barzun's constellation analogy we will also explore and express how the disparate physical objects each with their own story come together in a pattern we call house but also creates an idea of home that has the possibility of becoming meaningful for the people who inhabit it.

This seminar will be a combination of readings, research, and critical discussions punctuated with field trips and conversations with fabricators, showroom personnel and contractors to guide us through the journey. A series of short individual assignments in various digital visual and physical media will converge in the collaborative design of a house and an idea about home created by all the students of the class. A design that tells one story of the one hundred thousand and one million hands that build a house and create the possibility of a home.

Mark Tambornino is an Architect and Certified Interior Designer and Principal at Albertsson Hansen Architecture, an award-winning residential architecture firm. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture and has been teaching design studios and workshops in graduate and undergraduate architecture programs since 2002. His teaching focuses on exploring the conceptual and analytical characteristics of architecture and design, and on guiding students to experience the transformation of their ideas through activities of design and design thinking.

Fashion and Music

DES 1904
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Kathryn Reiley
Apparel Design & Retail Merchandising

This course will explore the relationship between music, dance and fashion, looking specifically at the 20th century. It will begin with an introduction to the impact of music and dance on fashion and dress and then delve into the changes in popular music and dance throughout the 20th century which result in changes in fashionable dress. The subcultural groups known as flappers, zoot-suiters, Bobby soxers, beats, punks, and goths will be studied to understand the importance of music on each group's dress and identity. Class sessions will include short lectures, video clips, class discussions, student presentations, and the examination of garments and objects from the Goldstein Museum of Design collections. After taking this course, students will have an understanding of the significance of dress as a marker of the identities of individual wearers within their historic context.

Instructor Kathryn Reiley, Ph.D., is an adjunct professor in apparel design and retail merchandising and has taught Textiles; History of Fashion; Fashion Trends; Fashion Ethics; and Dress, Society and Culture. Dr. Reiley's research interests are dress, aesthetics, vintage clothing, sustainability, and consumer behavior and her research has been published in the journals *Fashion Theory* and *Fashion Practice*. Dr. Reiley also works with the Goldstein Museum of Design in the College of Design and was co-curator of the exhibition "Redefining, Redesigning Fashion: Designs for Sustainability".

Amsterdam and the World



DTCH 1912
3 Credits
Study Abroad
Spring 2023

Jenneke Oosterhoff
German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch

In the 17th century, Amsterdam was the richest city in the world. From here, the Dutch East India Company, the first multinational corporation of its kind, sailed across the oceans to establish trading posts and colonies all over the globe. Here, they speculated with tulips at the world's oldest stock market. 17th-century Amsterdam was known for its financial prosperity as well as its religious and intellectual freedom. Exiled communities settled here and enriched the city with new philosophies, religious ideas and innovative scientific and technical practices. Amsterdam is the city of famous architects and painters, musicians, radical thinkers and writers. While the wealth of Amsterdam was acquired through a vast global trading network, it did include traffic in enslaved people throughout its colonial empire. The course will explore current debates surrounding the Dutch colonial legacy in a 21st-century multicultural world and Amsterdam's leading role in our reconciliation with the past.

This course involves a study abroad component to the Netherlands during Spring Break 2023. Please note that you must also apply and confirm your spot for this seminar through the Learning Abroad Center. Application deadline is: December 1, 2022. For more information, visit: <https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/dutch-legacy-identity> or contact Amy at garw0005@umn.edu. Jenneke Oosterhoff received her PhD from Washington University in Saint Louis (1998) with a dissertation on Arthur Schnitzler. Since Fall 1998, she has taught German and Dutch language, literature and culture at the University of Minnesota. Her research and teaching interests include German, Austrian and Dutch literature and culture. She has taught courses on Fin-de-Siècle Vienna, the GDR, The Netherlands in WWII, and Dutch-Caribbean literature and culture, among others. Her publications include a monograph on Arthur Schnitzler and three books in Routledge's modern grammar series in Dutch.

Globalizing your Undergraduate Curriculum

EDHD 1904
3 Credits
LE: Global Perspectives
Fall 2022

Irene Duranczyk and Paul Edwards
Education

EDHD 1904 is designed to engage domestic and international students in multiple ways of thinking and doing for the expressed purpose of infusing a global perspective in their undergraduate education. Students will virtually engage with undergraduate students in Russia and China exploring what it means to be a student and adult participant on the world stage. Student will have exposure and experiences with international students, international student organizations, service learning, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Internationalization at Home (IaH), Study Abroad, and other international-based research, learning, or extracurricular processes and opportunities. This course will prepare students to embrace intercultural competency and its impact on self-awareness, social settings, course work, research projects, and career choices.

As an Associate Professor in the College of Education and Human Development, Professor Duranczyk has been collaborating with global partners in China, Russia and various universities in Northeastern China for the past 6 years. She has participated in Collaborating Online International Learning (COIL) seminars at UMN and is a certified Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) administrator. Professor Duranczyk balances depth and breadth of engaging undergraduates from three countries as they explore a common global concern.

Dr. Paul Edwards began working with the design of the course, Globalizing your Undergraduate Curriculum, with Dr. Duranczyk at the University of Minnesota in the Fall of 2018 while working on the Twin Cities Campus in roles supporting domestic and international students through advising, teaching, and global citizenship initiatives. Since 2019,

he has been the Associate Director of Career Development and Coaching, STEM and Entrepreneurship at St. Olaf College. Dr. Edwards has a BS in Biology (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); an MA in Education (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities); and an MD (Duke University). He also is a Certified Education Abroad Professional through the Forum on Education Abroad (the US Department of Justice's standards development organization for the field of education abroad); a Certified Practitioner for the Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile (EMP); and a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). In addition, Dr. Edwards has significant international educational, research, consulting, humanitarian, and other experience in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and North/South America over the past 25 years.

Libraries: Exploring the Spaces of Knowledge

ENGL 1917
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Amit Yahav
English

Today many of us do our research online -- sitting at our home or office, and examining digital information in a virtual universe. Nonetheless, there is something to be said for browsing stacks, handling physical books, and exploring the actual spaces of libraries. Physical libraries and books allow for a different way of experiencing knowledge and enable surprising discoveries about our topics of interest, as well as about what libraries might be good for and what knowing might mean. In this seminar we will visit local libraries, UMN libraries, Hennepin County Libraries, museum libraries, and read about the world history of libraries from Ancient Alexandria through modern national collections, such as the British Library and the Library of Congress. Students will write three short reports from their visits to local libraries as well as a short research paper on a historical library of their choice.

Amit Yahav is an associate professor of English, specializing in eighteenth-century British literature, culture, and philosophy. She published work on the intersections of novels, phenomenology, liberalism, and nationalism, and teaches courses on Gothic fiction, realist novels, women's writing, and literary theory. Her current research is on leisure, the history and importance of time devoted not to work and learning, but to rest and pleasure. In her spare time she enjoys reading aloud together with her kids (especially funny books with illustrations) and exploring the physical spaces of museums, libraries, and parks.

Shakespeare in London & Stratford-upon-Avon



ENGL 1922W
3 Credits
LE: Literature
Writing Intensive
Study Abroad
Spring 2023

Katherine Scheil
English

"Shakespeare in London and Stratford" is a Freshman Seminar with a study abroad component, for students from across the University, from science majors to business majors, from premed students to studio art majors. We will begin our course in cold, snowy Minnesota in January and February, covering an introduction to Shakespeare's life and his world, and then studying several of his plays, probably *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Henry V* (though those may change depending on what's on in UK theatres). Then, we will travel to London over spring break for a hands-on, in-depth whirlwind experience, taking in as much of Shakespeare's world, both from the early modern period, from what Shakespeare means today, in London and Stratford.

This course involves a study abroad component to the UK during Spring Break 2023. Please note that you must also apply and confirm your spot for this seminar through the Learning Abroad Center. Application deadline is: December 1, 2022. For more information, visit: <https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/europe/shakespeare-london-stratford> or contact Jemma at lund1495@umn.edu.

Katherine Scheil is Professor of English, and has taught Shakespeare for over 30 years. She is the author of 3 books and numerous essays about Shakespeare, and her research regularly takes her across the Atlantic to Shakespeare's workplace of London, and to his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. As an undergraduate, she began as a Music major, but then did a summer study abroad program in London, which changed her life. She returned to the States and double majored in Music and English, hoping to carve out a future where she could research and teach Shakespeare. Teaching a Freshman Seminar on Shakespeare in London and Stratford has been one of her long-standing professional and personal goals.

Very Short Poems

ENGL 1923
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Lianna Farber
English

Poetry has such a fiercely loyal subculture of readers that in 2017, Amanda Gorman was named the first National Youth Poet Laureate. Very Short Poems will introduce you to an adaptive art form that is ideal for our online world; every poem in the syllabus is found online. Featuring work ranging from Amanda Gorman (1998-) to Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542), but with a focus on the contemporary as well as the timeless, this seminar will be a literary "lab" class for reading short poems: identifying their effects, understanding how poets achieve those effects, and engaging the ways poets use non-narrative language and space to set a scene, convey an emotion, make an argument, and get us to inhabit a point of view. Class discussions will focus on the poems that most fascinate class members. What bothered or thrilled you? How did the poet make you feel this way with that phrase? Expect to learn why you love some poems and dislike others; a debate all fans of this art form enjoy.

Lianna Farber is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Minnesota. She believes that everyone should read lyric poems because they force us to reason without narrative, because they are efficient, and because they are fun to reverse-engineer (in the sense of taking apart a Lego structure and putting it back together, not in the sense of smashing an egg to understand what is inside). Over the past few years she has been partnering with a local school to teach poetry and argumentation to young students. She is interested in the intersection of literature, epistemology, and pedagogy.

Magnificent, Miniature Minds: From Dancing Honeybees to Cyborgs

ENT 1906
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Karen Mesce
Entomology

Did you know that honeybees can be trained to recognize human faces or that desert ants can count their steps while walking? Have you ever thought about how an octopus "knows" how to match its body coloration to its marine environment and a monarch butterfly can find its over-wintering site located thousands of miles away? These are just a few examples of the extraordinary abilities that invertebrate animals display, reflecting the mighty power of their miniature brains and nervous systems.

In this course, we will discuss the fascinating behaviors of animals with miniature brains and how their numerally-limited nervous systems enable them to do what they do. We will also explore how a deeper understanding of small-brain networks can inform us about how our own brains work, and how such knowledge can be used to engineer adaptive robots, cyborgs and smart machines. This course is designed to be integrative: including disciplines intersecting with animal behavior, entomology, evolution, ecology, neuroscience, psychology and bioengineering. A major goal of this course is to widen one's view of the importance of invertebrate animals in the field of neuroscience and gain an appreciation of the translational impact that this knowledge can have and will continue to have on our society and daily lives. Students will also be introduced to basic concepts in neurobiology and learn how small neural networks operate.

Professor Mesce is a member of several different Departments (Entomology; Neuroscience) and Interdisciplinary Programs (Graduate Program in Neuroscience; Institute for Engineering in Medicine). She is currently the President-elect of the International Society for Neuroethology, whose mission is to support the interests of those studying the neural bases of animal behavior. Karen began her career as a marine biologist, but soon came to the realization that her true passion was to understand how simpler nervous systems control the complex and fascinating behaviors of invertebrate animals.

Got Bees? Declines and Conservation of Honey Bees and Native Bees

ENT 1909
LE: Environment
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Marla Spivak
Entomology

Humans are largely aware that bees are declining globally, due in large part to human land use, agricultural practices, and the changing climate. The loss of insect pollinators, including native and honeybees, presents a grand challenge that will have cascading effects throughout ecological systems and human food crop systems. Preservation of pollination services is not only an environmental issue, it is also an important challenge facing our society and world. How we, as a society, choose to address this problem will reflect on how we value the environment and the services it provides. This course is designed to reflect on the shared sense of responsibility for building a community that will address this issue.

Intended audience: Undergraduates who may or may not be majoring within the sciences. Students interested in how humans interact with the environment, and how the choices we make as a society impact environmental processes. No prerequisite courses required.

Dr. Spivak is a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Her research efforts focus on protecting and enhancing the health of honey bees, and on propagating floral rich landscapes to support all pollinators.



Geology of Minnesota

ESCI 1902
Environment
LE: Environment
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Harvey Thorleifson
*Earth & Environmental
Sciences*

This course addresses important societal questions, such as “Where does my drinking water come from? Do I really need to buy bottled water? What should my stand be regarding major water-related environmental issues in Minnesota?” In this course, we will explore the world around us, and apply what we learn to better contribute to the solutions we will need as a society to deal with impacts on water quality and quantity due to factors such as agriculture, flood control, groundwater pumping, hydroelectric power, integrity of surface water features, interbasin transfers, invasive biota, mining, and shipping. In doing so, we will explore ways for everyone to better take responsibility for their role in optimizing public health, maximizing economic benefits, maintaining biodiversity, and protecting the integrity of surface water features on our landscape.

Emphasis will be placed on how our choices and solutions will in the long term affect our principal drinking water source—the groundwater that is hosted in ancient rocks in the north and in the deep subsurface, younger limestone and sandstone in the south, and the sediments of the most recent Ice Age from which our soils have formed. A full-day field trip planned for a Saturday in September will examine how societal choices affect our use of and protection of water resources in our rivers and lakes, and a second full-day trip on a Saturday in October will address the same issues in relation to our largest source of drinking water—our wells. Those unable to attend a field trip may instead prepare a paper.

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

Sea Change: Geological Perspective

ESCI 1908
2 Credits
Fall 2022

Vera Pospelova
*Earth & Environmental
Sciences*

Paleoceanography is the study of the environmental history of the planet from records of ancient oceans. This seminar course is intended for first-year students who are interested in understanding how and why the planet has changed in the geologic past and learning how scientists gather evidence of environmental change from marine sediments. We will examine how to use fossils and other evidence for reconstructing sea-level, ancient ocean currents, and abrupt paleoclimatic events and their impacts on marine life, and we will discuss major ideas about the driving forces of these past changes. Understanding the geologic past is highly relevant to understanding current and future environmental change.

Dr. Pospelova has been a professor at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (UMN) since 2019. Previously, she was a faculty member in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria (Canada). Her expertise is in micropaleontology and paleoceanography, and she uses microfossils and geochemical data to learn about past climates and environmental conditions.

Satellites to Drones: Monitoring our Changing Environment

FNRM 1902
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Joe Knight
*Department of Forest
Resources*

This Freshman Seminar course explores the many ways imagery from satellites, airplanes, and more recently drones, allows us to better manage our environment and natural resources. This remotely sensed imagery, combined with other geospatial technologies, gives us an unparalleled ability to monitor our changing world, including identifying natural and anthropogenic environmental impacts such as deforestation and urbanization. Imagery also allows us to plan our land use to minimize or avoid those impacts. In this course, we will: discuss how imagery and geospatial data are being used to solve environmental problems, experience imaging data applied to actual environmental issues, learn about the imaging sensors used to acquire these data, and study related applications of remote sensing. We will explore imagery from satellites such as NASA's Landsat, high-resolution commercial sensors (as seen in Google Earth), aircraft-based imaging and lidar sensors, drones, and non-Earth remote sensing. We will discuss the future of remote sensing of the environment in light of new and emerging imaging technologies.

Since this is a Freshman Seminar that is focused on new college students, each class period will begin with a “College Pro Tip” that will cover an important skill, piece of information, or resource that will help you succeed at the University of Minnesota. These will generally take 10-15 minutes, after which we will cover the geospatial topic of the day. See the Class Schedule at the end of this syllabus for more information.

Dr. Knight's research focuses on using geospatial science methods such as remote sensing and GIS to understand and quantify the impacts of land use on our environment and natural resources. The improved understanding provided by this research of the dynamics of land use effects on Earth's ecosystems allows us to address more effectively current challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and loss of wetlands; and to develop and implement sustainable land use practices to avoid future environmental problems.



Rare Diseases: What it Takes to Be a Medical Orphan

GCC 1906
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Reena Kartha
*Experimental and Clinical
Pharmacology/Translational
Pharmacology*

What if you are born with a condition, which very few people know about and for which there are no cures? Or what if there is a cure, but it is very expensive and you have to take it throughout your life? How can you encourage the pharmaceutical industry to invest in such cures and have policy makers consider such conditions when they draft new regulations? Rare diseases are not rare. There are 7000 diseases, but in aggregate, these diseases affect 30 million (i.e. 1 in 10) Americans of all ages and millions of people globally. Most of these conditions are serious and life-altering, and children account for more than 50% of those affected. However, only 5% of all rare diseases have FDA-approved treatments. Thus, there is a large unmet need in this area and one way to address this is to raise awareness about these conditions.

This highly interactive course is comprised of weekly seminars and readings on topics related to the understanding of rare diseases and the economics and public policy aspects of development of drugs (orphan products) to treat these conditions in the US and across the globe. Students will learn from and network with researchers, healthcare professionals and business leaders and gain sufficient background to appreciate the scope of this multidisciplinary field. Students will work in teams with a patient advocacy organization to learn firsthand the challenges related to the diagnosis and treatment of a specific rare disease, barriers to research and development and deliver possible solutions to a specific challenge that they have identified.

Reena Kartha is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Associate Director of Translational Pharmacology in the Center for Orphan Drug Research (CODR), University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. She has a Masters in Biotechnology and a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular biology. Her research focuses on understanding the pathophysiological role of oxidative stress and inflammation in rare inherited metabolic disorders as well as the pharmacology of agents that target these molecular pathways. She has mentored and supervised undergraduate, graduate and pharmacy students conducting directed research and directed the CODR research seminars during the school year. She was a NIH funded rare disease clinical research fellow and was the recipient of the 2017 Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Junior Mentor of the year award.

Environmental Grand Challenges: What Impact Will You Have?

GCC 1907
3 Credits
LE: Environment
Spring 2023

Jessica Hellmann and
Aaron Hanson
Institute on the Environment

What does it mean to live a life that aligns with your values in a time of rapid global environmental transformations driven by climate change, mass extinction of plant and animal species, and the increasing pollution of our oceans, atmosphere, and soils? These are challenging questions, but there are resources, knowledge, and capacity across the University and the broader community that can help answer questions such as: How can we live sustainably, as individuals and societies, and what disciplines and approaches will we need to achieve this? Where does one start—at this University, in Minnesota, or around the world?

Throughout the course, we will meet with campus and community leaders who are working to address our environmental grand challenges and focus on solutions that are working and ways that each of us can have a positive impact. The course is directed by staff at the Institute on the Environment with direct connections to people working on sustainability and led by the Institute's executive director. It is ideal for first year students striving to understand how they might engage in sustainability research, education and action while a student at the UMN.

Jessica J. Hellmann is the director of the Institute on the Environment and the Russell M. and Elizabeth M. Bennett Chair in Excellence in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior in the College of Biological Sciences. Her research focuses on global change ecology and climate adaptation, and she was among the first to propose and study ways to reduce the impact of climate change through new techniques in conservation management.

For the Institute on the Environment, Aaron Hanson coordinates research projects for the Energy Transition Lab, teaches Sustainable Housing - Community, Environment, and Technology for the Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management program, as well as working with several of the Institute on the Environment's education programs.





Ways of Knowing Science

GCC 1908

3 Credits

LE: Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Fall 2022

Craig Hassel

Food and Nutrition/ Center for Spirituality & Healing

Every human society codifies its own unique approach, understanding and experience of the world around it into systems of knowledge. However, until very recently, scientific researchers at large Western universities have paid little attention to this knowledge, in part because much is dismissed as “unscientific” -- implying inferiority to Western science. In this seminar, we will take a more culturally sensitive inside look at diverse ways of knowing. Experience is often the best teacher. By direct experience and involvement with another culture, we come to better recognize their cultural worldview and its way of seeing and making sense of the world. In this way, learners will encounter different ways of knowing. Each week, experiential learning is supplemented through reading assignments that include published inquiry by indigenous and academic authors.

Craig A. Hassel, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, Food and Nutrition and Graduate Faculty, Center for Spirituality & Healing at the University of Minnesota. He is also a Fellow and Elder with the Cultural Wellness Center and Elder with Healing Roots Community. His work is grounded in long-term relationships with cultural communities experiencing the most severe diet-related health inequities. He attempts to fill a void within food and nutrition sciences by interfacing with systems of thought carried by older, non-EuroAmerican cultures. Interfacing attempts not to impose or intervene but rather to learn through reciprocal understanding built upon trust and mutual respect. His cross-cultural engagement methodology creates paths to more open and informed inter-cultural sharing, interaction and knowledge production. He teaches through experiential micro-immersion, critical thinking and cultural self-reflection. The goal is to disrupt colonizing patterns deeply embedded within academic thought and behavior; to better recognize and protect the integrity of all forms of human knowledge.

Introduction to Ecosystem Health: Challenges at the Intersection of Human, Animal, and Environmental

GCC 1909

3 Credits

LE: Environment

Fall 2022

Victoria Hall

Raptor and Ecosystem Health

Many of the world’s most “wicked” and urgent grand challenges occur at the interface of humans, animals, and the environment. For instance, in a given region of the world, how do we manage the effects of climate change, disease emergence, food and water security, gender, and conflict and poverty, to ensure the health of humans and animals? For many grand challenges like this, we observe a common theme: human health depends upon the environment, and the environment depends on the health and sustainability of human communities.

These large-scale grand challenges can often become overwhelming, and a solution that considers only one aspect of health often seems daunting and difficult to implement in policy. How can we usefully understand the interactions between these challenges to contribute to solutions? How can one’s own discipline and career path relate to these complex grand challenges? How do we build teams and partnerships across disciplines to engage at the scale of the problem?

Dr. Victoria Hall serves as the Executive Director of The Raptor Center and as the Redig Endowed Faculty Chair in Raptor and Ecosystem Health at the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She comes from a strong background working at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health, coming most recently from the Smithsonian Institution where she served as the Veterinary Epidemiologist for the National Zoo and as a Public Health Officer for the Smithsonian Institution’s COVID-19 response. Dr. Hall formerly served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, responding to infectious disease outbreaks in human health, including outbreaks involving: multidrug resistant tuberculosis, measles virus, and Zika virus.

Eleven Billion People: Can the Earth Sustain Humanity?

GCC 1911
3 Credits
LE: Environment
Spring 2023

Ashok Singh
Veterinary Population Medicine

The earth is finite (an open system for energy but closed system for matter), thus its ability to provide resources for the biosphere and to absorb waste is also finite. Resource utilization and waste generation is directly related to the human's population, need, affluence and demand (Van Timmeren et al. 2012). Humans, from its first two-legged ancestor in Pliocene to the appearance of Homo sapiens, have interacted with their environment and changed enormously the human ecological niche and the breadth of its impact on the environment. But, they also have adapted to adversities via technological developments (from stone-age hunters and gatherers to the information age of modern Homo sapiens) that have kept pace to meet the ever increasing human population and their affluence. As the technologies (including the digital technology of the 21st century) are becoming more complex, their energy demand is increasing proportionally, resulting in overexploitation of resources and accumulation of toxic waste (including global warming gasses) into the environment, an unsustainable trajectory. Unless a serious corrective action is implemented, the planet may not sustain 11 billion people, the expected population by the end of 2020.

Dr. Singh, an associate professor of toxicology in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, received his M.S./Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Banaras University (India) and Ph.D. in Toxicology from Simon Fraser University (Canada). His research interests are Neuro- and Analytical-Toxicology. He teaches freshman seminars, undergraduate and graduate courses in Environmental Toxicology, Nano-toxicology, Garbage and the Environment and Global effects of Human Activity.

Living with Innovation

GEOG 1913
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Peter Calow
Geography

This seminar will examine the idea that living with innovation depends on developing policies that properly manage risks in an informed way, by trying to anticipate and assess them rather than just to avoid them. Risk assessment is a scientific approach that combines an understanding of threat, exposure and vulnerability "recognizing uncertainties in all the elements" to estimate the likelihood of impacts.

Risk management policy often has to balance the risks from emerging technologies with their benefits. Historically the risks that have arisen from innovation have been small compared with benefits so decisions have been relatively easy. However, some of the risks from the new generation of emerging technologies have potentially big consequence, e.g. in the development of bioweapons, misuse of geo-engineering to unilaterally alter climate, cyberwar and killer robots. These present special challenges for policy to ensure that we enjoy the benefits of the technology while keeping catastrophic threats acceptably low and will form a basis of small group discussions as part of the seminar.

An underlying message from the seminar will be that making the right connections between science and policy is a key part of living with innovation.

Peter Calow has spent a long career researching the risks from chemicals in the environment in Europe and North America working at universities and for governments, including the European Union. He has special interests in the interface between science and public policy and currently has positions at the University of Minnesota in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and the Department of Geography.

Social Justice and the Twin Cities

GEOG 1916
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Madelaine Cahuas
Geography, Environment, and Society

This seminar will explore the interconnected histories, geographies, and politics of the Twin Cities - Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Drawing on urban geography, urban studies, feminist, and critical race theory literatures, we will examine how settler colonialism, anti-Black racism, and other intersecting forces of oppression shape how urban spaces are formed and experienced in the Twin Cities. We will also closely examine how different urban actors, from local grassroots collectives, non-profit organizations, and city governments, have sought to address social and racial inequities and work towards social change. Furthermore, we will deeply engage with the longstanding histories and presents of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx social justice activism in the Twin Cities. Students will have the opportunity to learn from local community organizers and activists and go on a field trip to learn about social justice and social change in the Twin Cities.

Madelaine Cahuas is an Assistant Professor and urban social geographer in the Department of Geography, Environment & Society. As a Latina feminist activist from Toronto, Canada and the daughter of immigrant parents, questions of race, gender, migration and belonging have long been important to her. Her research explores how Latinx communities politically mobilize through non-profit, community-based organizations, grassroots collectives and the arts to address inequities and advance social justice in the cities they live. She is especially interested in the life experiences of everyday Latinas at the forefront of urban social movements.

Do the Right Thing: Ethics and You

GLOS 1916
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Thomas Wolfe
Global Studies

This class will examine the struggles we all have in everyday life to "do the right thing." Almost every area of life confronts us with the question, "What should I do here?" "What is the right thing to do?" "What is the good thing to do?"

To this extent our class is about ethics, that sphere of philosophy that inquires into the conduct of human beings as they encounter the world. Using different kinds of material—newspaper columns, film, and academic studies—we will examine the dilemmas that people have in making ethical decisions. Our goal is not to define a fixed guide to ethics as much as it is to acquaint students with questions about conduct as they appear in a variety of contexts of everyday life. We will ask what makes some situations clear and others ethically complex. We will also consider what happens when different scales of values confront each other in everyday life. Students will conclude the class able to notice and analyze ethical dilemmas and empowered to sort through them.

Thomas Wolfe is an associate professor of History and Global Studies specializing in 19th and 20th century media, cultural, and political history. He teaches courses about place, ethics, and nationalism, as well as courses about global history, the history of politics, and the history of the European Union.

Politics of Hunger: Food, Aid, and Globalization after WWII

HIST 1923
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Hiromi Mizuno
History

Food is a basic part of our everyday life, but it is difficult to see macro-level political economy behind food and hunger. This seminar gives a basic understanding of how “hunger” came to be understood and dealt with globally after WWII, how Cold-War geopolitics affected food shortage and surplus, how the global food system has gotten us where we are, and what new options are being pursued now. In all these stages, the US has played a central role in shaping the politics of food and hunger. The first part of the course exposes you to important concepts and issues related to politics around world hunger, American food aid, and multi-national agribusiness; students learn how to read texts closely and how to connect American food aid to global politics. The second part of the course helps you acquire research and communication skills; students learn how to conduct independent research and how to use a digital humanities tool called StoryMap. The course is composed of lectures, discussions, documentary film viewing, and research/StoryMap creation.

Professor Mizuno is an intellectual historian specialized in science and technology and interested in the ecological politics of chemical fertilizer. She has been teaching and improving this freshman seminar over several years and loves incorporating digital humanities tools and other media in this class. She is currently writing a book on economic development, agriculture, and the chemical industry of 20C that covers the US, Asia, and Europe. Her recent research publication covers topics such as the US-Japan aid economy, the Green Revolution, mutant rice in Southeast Asia, and the global competition over the soybean market in the early 20C.

Radical Ecology in the Early United States

HIST 1927
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Kirsten Fischerr
History

Our current climate crisis calls for a rethinking of the way humans interact with the environment, but such efforts are not new: in the 19th century, American scientists, philosophers, theologians, and social reformers advocated a change in attitudes and behavior toward the natural world. This course introduces students to nineteenth-century environmentalism that focused on an interdependent web of life, the health of ecosystems, and an animated nature. We will study a range of religious and spiritual approaches to the natural world, social reform movements, and communitarian experiments, all of which explored how human beings relate to the world that sustains us. Nineteenth-century experiments in minimalism anticipated the current “Buy Nothing” movement; protests against ecological degradation preceded modern-day demonstrations against oil pipelines; national parks, established for the public good, protected lands from industry and development. Students will encounter an array of ecological experiments that preceded and shaped current forms of environmentalism.

Kirsten Fischer, Professor of History, teaches a wide range of courses in American history, from religious encounters in early America to modern-day memoirs about life in the United States. In 2011, she received the Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. She is the author of *Suspect Relations: Sex, Race, and Resistance in Colonial North Carolina* (2002) and *American Freethinker: Elihu Palmer and the Struggle for Religious Freedom in the New Nation* (2021). Her current book project is a four-generational family history that takes place in 20th-century Germany.

The Bright Ages: Reimagining the Middle Ages

HIST 1928
3 Credits
Fall 2022

David Perry
History

There is no such thing as the Dark Ages. Medieval European history is a thousand years long and contains all the complexity, the mess, and the human capacity for good and evil as any other place and time. And yet this period of history remains haunted by the ghosts of the Renaissance, the age of Imperialism, and even today's TV shows like *Vikings* or *Game of Thrones*. How do historians craft new and more persuasive narratives about the past? How do we shape what people remember? In this class, students will work on how we tell stories about big periods in the past, focusing first on the battle against the so-called Dark Ages, but then looking at the ways ongoing battles about how to tell our stories from antiquity to now play out in the classroom, our political arenas, in our entertainments, and beyond.

David M. Perry is the senior academic advisor in the history department. A journalist and historian, his new book *The Bright Ages: A New History of Medieval Europe* came out last year. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, and many other outlets. He was professor of history for a decade at Dominican University and is also the author of *Sacred Plunder: Venice and the Aftermath of the Fourth Crusade*.



History of and Through Board Games

HIST 1929
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Alex Magnolia
History

When pandemic lockdowns and restrictions forced people to stay at home beginning in 2020, sales of board games soared in the United States; they are still having something of a “moment” in our zeitgeist. This course uses board games from the medieval game of chess, beloved by shahs and emperors alike, to the “family game night” classics like Monopoly, to complex and intricate strategy games of the 21st century, as tools to view and study the past and to reflect on the present. The first third of the course engages with global and social history with a grounding in historical methods and theory. The second third plunges students directly into practical gameplaying and analysis, where they will learn the salient aspects of modern board gaming. They will also connect with a local board game company, one of the nation’s leading game makers, to understand the burgeoning business and make connections with industry innovators. In the final part of class, students will culminate their learning by designing, testing, producing, a game of their own, based on a careful reading and understanding of primary and secondary source material.

Alex Magnolia is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on various aspects of the Medieval Roman Empire, which scholars today refer to as “Byzantium;” he works on Byzantine constructions of gender, sexuality, kinship, and marriage, and teaches courses on medieval history with an eye towards rehabilitating the reputation of this rich epoch. He is currently researching a corpus of 200 letters written by a tenth-century Constantinopolitan Patriarch. Originally from Colorado, he adores all things Southwest. Alex has two cats, one monocular and one binocular. He completed his first novel, a post-apocalyptic critique of modernity, early this year, and hopes to publish it soon.

Rome at the Movies from Fascism to Netflix

ITAL 1912
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Lorenzo Fabbri
French and Italian

In this seminar, we will have the privilege to explore Rome through the gaze of Italy’s most impactful directors and show-runners. Our cinematic explorations through the city of la dolce vita will be guided by recurring questions: How does visual culture shape place? In which ways do the moving images influence complex urban realities? How do they create connections between people from diverse backgrounds, while also establishing borders within public spaces and hierarchies regarding whom the city belongs to? By exposing unseen and unheard stories, can films and documentaries favor political change, inclusivity, and diversity? We will answer these questions through virtual site visits, screenings, readings, workshops, and guest lectures by filmmakers. By the end of the course you will have learned how to film the complex reality of a city in a way that is conducive to social justice and political progress. If the conditions allow, as a final project for this course students will create a short documentary about the Twin Cities under the supervision of a local filmmaker.

Lorenzo Fabbri, a native of Rome, is a McKnight Land-grant Professor at the University of Minnesota, where he also directs the Italian Program. Lorenzo’s work on Italian cultural history, film studies, and political philosophy has been featured in prestigious journals, such as *Screen*, *Diacritics*, *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies*, *The Italianist*, and *Critical Inquiry*. His first book, *The Domestication of Derrida*, was published in 2008. His second monograph, *Making a Race: Cinema, Fascism, and Resistance*, a study of the weaponization of cinema in fascist Italy, is forthcoming next year.

An Olympic Impact on the World

KIN 1904
LE: Global Perspectives
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Donald Dengel
Kinesiology

In the late nineteenth century, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French aristocrat, worked tirelessly to revive the Olympic Games from Greek history. Through Baron de Coubertin’s efforts the first Olympic Games of the modern era took place in 1896 in Athens, Greece. From a small sporting event that hosted a little over 300 athletes from 13 countries the Olympic Games have grown over the last 120 years to one of the most viewed sporting events in the world. Today, the Olympic Games hosts over 10,000 athletes from over 200 countries. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which runs the Olympic Games, is now one of the most powerful and richest sporting organizations in the world. The Olympic Games have had a profound impact on the world we live in and they provide us with a platform for examining changes in the world’s cultural, economic, social and political processes over the last 120 years. This course explores the impact of the Olympic Games on the world’s cultural, social and political processes. In addition, this course will explore the impact of hosting the Olympic Games on that host city and the country’s economy. Finally, this course will explore the changes in sport that have occurred during this time span.

Donald Dengel is a Professor in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota. Professor Dengel has led students from the University of Minnesota on Learning Abroad Courses to London to study the various Olympic sites and learn about the three London Olympic Games. Professor Dengel was also an exercise physiologist for various US Olympic Teams with research laboratories at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Words at Work

LING 1913
3 Credits
Fall 2021

Michael Kac
Philosophy

This course is a guided tour through the vocabulary of English, one of the largest and most varied in any of the world’s languages. Among the questions it will address are: Why does English have so many (and so many different kinds of) words? Where did these words come from? Why do they mean what they mean? How are they put together? What do they tell us about history, social organization, culture and human psychology? One practical advantage of learning the answers to these and other questions is that it helps in vocabulary building and in demystifying specialized and technical terminology. The course is also a portal into linguistics, the study of the nature of language.

Michael Kac, Professor of philosophy and linguistics, is a specialist in the study of sentence structure and of the philosophical foundations of linguistics. He has published the books *Corepresentation of Grammatical Structure* (University of Minnesota Press, 1978) and *Grammars and Grammaticality* (John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1992) and numerous articles. He is also a performing musician interested in the relationship between music and language.

The Exploration of Gender Identity in Vocal Music

MUS 1903
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Victoria Vargas
School of Music

In this class we discuss and explore the roles that gender identity might play in the vocal arts. We will begin this exploration by discussing composers/performers of classical music and move forward to contemporary commercial music. Throughout this course we will use historical documentation, video and audio as reference for our discussion. We will also consider audience reception.

Mezzo-soprano Victoria Vargas has sung over twenty five roles for the Minnesota Opera and has performed with Opera Theater of Saint Louis, Chautauqua Opera, Sarasota Opera, Ash Lawn Highland Festival and others. Her concert credits include performing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (NY), Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (MN), Chautauqua Symphony, the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, La Jolla Symphony and Minnesota Orchestra. She has placed seven times at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions at both the district and regional levels. As an educator she has taught vocal pedagogy, and nearly ten years of applied lessons. She loves to study the anatomy and physiology of the human voice and has a particular interest in cross training between classical and contemporary commercial music genres. Mrs. Vargas has served on faculty at the MacPhail Center for Music and Carleton College. She is currently in her second year as Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Minnesota.

Guitar Heroes

MUS 1912
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Maja Radovanlija
School of Music

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

Maja Radovanlija, native of Serbia, started playing guitar at the age of 9. At a young age she won numerous national and international Classical guitar competitions and toured Serbia, Bulgaria and surrounding European countries. She completed her graduate studies with a specialty in Early music and Contemporary music, at the Jacobs School of Music, IU. Currently she tours with Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, MM Guitar Duo, Radovanlija-Chatterton guitar-flute duo, and is involved in several projects around new and improvised contemporary music (Ensemble Studio 6, Szilard Mezei string trio, ISIM, ImprovisanDo project, etc.). Maja teaches guitar and guitar related courses at SOM, U of MN.

Music in Nazi Germany & the Holocaust

MUS 1914W
LE: Civic Life and Ethics
Writing Intensive
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Karen Painter
School of Music

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

Karen Painter's research focuses on music and politics, especially in Germany and Austria. Her current book project is on music and poetry of mourning in Germany during the World Wars and Holocaust. Painter received her BA in music and philosophy from Yale and PhD in music from Columbia. Previous faculty appointments include Dartmouth and Harvard. She has served as Director of the Office of Research and Analysis for the National Endowment for the Arts. Painter lives east of the campus on five acres with three teens, her husband (a law professor and political commentator), and a menagerie of pets.



The Color of Music

MUS 1915
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Gabriela Currie
School of Music

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

The sounds and sights of cultures around the world have always been one of my passions. In my journeys of discovery I seek to experience them first hand or mediated through modern technology. In particular, both as a scholar and as a human being I want to understand how these different modes of expression intersect and permeate our lives with meaning. This makes life as fascinating as it makes it exciting and I invite my students to share in that thrill of discovery.

All About Music: Its Meaning, Reality, Communication, and Embodiment

MUS 1916
LE: Technology and Society
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Guerino Mazzola
School of Music

The great philosopher of life Friedrich Nietzsche rightly claims that “without music, life would be a mistake.” This does not mean that life is automatically perfect with music. This seminar deals with exactly this problem: What is music doing to us? Why do we listen to it? And how? What is its meaning in our lives, why does it matter, which realities does it touch, how can it be communicated? In what way is it distributed between intellect and emotions? And why do we go to concerts, since electronic media and the internet provide such easy access? The answers will be approached via intensive listening to all kinds of music from different cultures and epochs as well as through critical, very open discussions with the students. The instructor is highly sensitive to non-authoritarian music cultures, so he may provide a thoroughly dynamic and flexible access to music.

Guerino Mazzola qualified as a professor in mathematics (1980) and in computational science (2003) at the University of Zurich. He was visiting professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris in 2005. Since 2007 he is a professor at the School of Music, University of Minnesota. He developed a Mathematical Music Theory and software presto and Rubato. Since 2007 he is the president of the Society for Mathematics and Computation in Music. He has published 30 books and 145 papers, 27 jazz CDs, and a classical sonata.

Comics as Art

PHIL 1918
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Roy Cook
Philosophy

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

Roy Cook has a special interest in philosophical thought about the popular arts (including film, television, comics and cartoons, LEGO sculpture, collectible toys, and tattoos). He has been an avid reader of comic books since he was a child, when Spiderman was his favorite character, although he now prefers darker, more troubled superheroes (such as the Batman) and independent comics.



Africana Philosophy

PHIL 1919
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Dwight Lewis
Philosophy

In this course, we will engage concepts related to Blackness, particularly race, gender, and sexuality. We will investigate them individually then through conversation untangle the ways that they intersect. We will see that Black philosophers reveal an epistemic insight from the ways that they push on the western status quo both rationally and morally. In terms of rationality, Black philosophers propel us to redefine Blackness, sexuality, imperialism, communal care, and whiteness in general. In relation to morality, Black philosophers place us in a tension between the inner and the outer, the individual and the community, the personal and the social; it insists on seriously inquiring into the blame, blameworthiness, and shame that avoids and rejects Black lives, i.e., of the outer, the community, and figure without being on the edges of society. It is at this intersection of the rational and moral in relation to Blacks that a breakdown of singularity creates a new something. I want us to get close to understanding that “new something” by exploring the rational and moral in Black thought.

Dwight Lewis liked the idea of questioning the status quo as a student, so he read and studied the topics that he wanted to study, which is probably why he is an academic now. He completed his Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of South Florida, had research fellowships at Emory University and Penn State, and taught for a year at the University of Central Florida. He lives his life by five core tenets (care, consistency, challenge, creativity, and contentment), and wants to live his life as James Baldwin says “larger, freer, and more loving” for himself and in relation to his community (i.e., family, friends, city, state, country, and globe), especially for the less privileged (Larger, Freer, More Loving is also the name of his podcast with Matt LaVine).

What is Time?

PHYS 1910W
2 Credits
Writing Intensive
Spring 2023

J. Woods Halley
School of Physics and Astronomy

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

Professor Halley has research projects on the origin of life and the physics of low temperature phases of many body systems including superfluidity and superconductivity; His research group uses computer simulation, mathematical theory and experiment to probe these subjects. He has published a book on the Likelihood of Extraterrestrial Life and has another, in press, on The Nature of Time. Professor Halley lives near the Minneapolis campus with two cats and one of his sons.

How Likely is Extraterrestrial Life?

PHYS 1911W
2 Credits
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

J. Woods Halley
School of Physics and Astronomy

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the main available scientific facts and arguments which bear on the question of the likelihood of extraterrestrial life. A second goal is to familiarize students with aspects of the various relevant disciplines early in their university careers when they may still be selecting a major. The third goal is to provide familiarity with information resources at the university, particularly through the library, as well as improved reasoning, writing, and speaking skills.

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Race in Everyday Space

PSY 1916
3 Credits
LE: Race, Power, and Justice in the United States
Fall 2022

Jieyi Cai
Psychology

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

Jieyi Cai (they/them) is a fifth year PhD candidate in Counseling Psychology advised by Prof. Richard Lee. Their primary research interests are historical trauma in Asian American immigrant families and health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people of color. They earned BAs in psychology and history from Brown University.

The Freshman 15: Stress and Health Management for College Students

PSY 1923
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Caprice Niccoli-Waller
Psychology

The start of college is a time of significant transition from family home to campus living. The changes across many domains of one's life can disrupt healthy habits and initiate unhealthy ones. Are your stress levels out of control? Are you worried about your college eating habits? Are you planning to catch up on sleep after you graduate? In this seminar we will use a biopsychosocial framework, popular in health psychology, to examine personal health influences and choices. You will gain insight into your own health and learn methods to improve and sustain health behaviors that will better support your life as a student and your life beyond college.

Caprice Niccoli received her Ph.D. in biopsychology at the University of Ca., Davis. She has taught courses in health psychology for over 20 years and loves helping students take a closer look at their health and to become empowered to make choices that support their health goals. She also teaches the Capstone in Psychology course, taken by all graduating Psychology students, and is excited to be working with students at both their entrance to and exit from college life.

Neuroimaging in Psychology: Why Do Psychologists Use Magnets & Electrodes to Look at People's Brains

PSY 1925
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Cheryl Olman
Psychology

This seminar explores how people use electricity and magnets to study brains. It seems almost magical that we can use magnets, radio antennae, and electrodes to figure out what people are thinking. But there's no magic about it, and we will spend part of our time together learning about the basic physics and neuroscience that make functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), magnetoencephalography (MEG), and electroencephalography (EEG) possible. We will spend the rest of the time talking about why people want to do this and whether or not they should. The central problem is that, once we've collected our data, we have to interpret it. In order to interpret our data, we have to make some assumptions about how things work. The goal of this seminar is to teach students to detect and question those assumptions. Students will use weekly writing assignments to sharpen their thinking on each topic. The midterm exam will be a debate on the topic "Can we read people's minds?", and the final project will be to explain a popular neuroimaging paper to a stranger.

Cheryl Olman is a daughter and a sister; a partner and a mentor. She loves to build things and to make things grow; she loves figuring out how things work and then telling people about what she's learned. She monetizes that last interest by working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. She earned a BS in physics in 1995, worked at 3M for a few years, and then earned a PhD in neuroscience in 2003. Her research using functional MRI to study human vision satisfies her curiosity about how things work, and her research using computers to build simulations of neural networks satisfies her need to build things.

Our Innovating Minds: Introducing the Cognitive and Brain Sciences of Individual and Group Creativity

PSY 1926
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Wilma Koutstaal
Psychology

Creativity and innovation are essential to our ability to flexibly and positively make changes in our lives - both individually and collectively. How do our minds, brains, and environments together enable the generation and shaping of useful and influential novel ideas? This seminar course investigates this question, drawing on research and observations from the cognitive and brain sciences and other disciplines such as design, art, and computer science. Core parts of the course involve reading and discussing original research articles along with active hands-on/minds-on within-class collaborative activities. One integrative theme throughout the course is the ways in which creative thinking/making is boosted when we contextually vary the extent to which we deliberately exert cognitive control in the pursuit of creative goals. A second integrative theme is understanding how we need both concreteness and abstraction to best realize our making/creating endeavors.

Wilma Koutstaal is a professor of cognitive psychology who studies and writes about the thinking-making process. She is keenly interested in how ideas grow and change when they meet with other minds and are concretely realized in the world. Wilma has a passion for experimentally testing the ways that we, individually and as part of a team, can think and act more flexibly, creatively, and inclusively. She collaborates with computer scientists, product designers, artists, and brain scientists. Wilma has taught and worked in three different countries and loves walking, cooking, art, live music, and creative performance.

Communication Disorders and Neurodiversity

SLHS 1914
3 Credits
Fall 2022

Dr. Jayanthi Sasisekaran
Speech Language Hearing Sciences

This discussion-based Freshman seminar is about how communication disorders resulting from a variety of causes, including Autism, Aphasia, Stuttering, Motor Speech Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Hearing loss, are perceived in the 21st century. Topics including the evolution of frameworks to understand disabilities and barriers, ableism, neurodiversity, intersectionality, disability policies and accommodations, role of stakeholders, and the lived experiences of individuals with disabilities, will be discussed to contextualize communication disorders within the field of Disability Studies. Instructor-based lectures will be augmented through student-led discussions, guest lectures from topic experts, written assignments, and group projects.

Dr. Jayanthi Sasisekaran is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences. Dr. Sasisekaran teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Communication Differences and Disorders, Research methods, Fluency Disorders, and Motor Speech Disorders. Dr. Sasisekaran's research work is in understanding stuttering, a speech disorder. In her free time, Dr. Sasisekaran likes reading about other people's opinions, bird watching, and working in the garden.

The Singing Voice Through the Centuries

SLHS 1916
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Peter J. Watson
Speech Language Hearing Sciences

Have you ever wondered how ancient singing voices may have sounded, and what influenced that sound? From the temple and palace to the auditorium and stadium, how has the singing voice changed over the centuries? We will survey how the singing voice has been influenced by culture, artistic preferences, religious preferences and technology. For example, we will explore the chanting of priestesses in ancient Egypt, Tuvan throat singing, grand opera to metal screamers and growlers. The course will begin with a nontechnical description of how the voice is produced. We will examine literature that describes the singing style of ancient civilizations and imagine how the voice may have sounded and the motivation for that sound. In addition, with available audio recordings we will examine more directly current singing styles and their relationship to culture and technology.

Peter Watson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences (SLHS). Prior to receiving his Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Sciences he earned a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance. Peter continues to sing throughout the community and give talks to groups in the community about the voice. His research studies the control of breathing in opera singers and the acoustics of musical theater performers. He teaches two undergraduate courses for SLHS majors, Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms and Speech Science.

Attending (to) Theater

TH 1911W
3 Credits
Writing Intensive
Fall 2021

Sonja Kuftinec
Theatre Arts & Dance

How do we attend and attend to theater in the Twin Cities? This seminar introduces non-theater (and potential) majors to the richness of small and mid-sized theater in the Twin Cities such as Penumbra, Open Eye, and Ten Thousand Things, attending 8-10 performances together. Workshops and discussions with theater professionals will help us to develop critical and creative language to think, write about, and potentially create live performance. We'll think together about how theater might forge a different kind of "commonwealth."

What are the limits of performance as a mode of conflict transformation and social change? Over 25 years Professor Kuftinec has been exploring this question through research, teaching and practice.

Living Well With the Dead: Afterlives and Ethics in Contemporary Culture

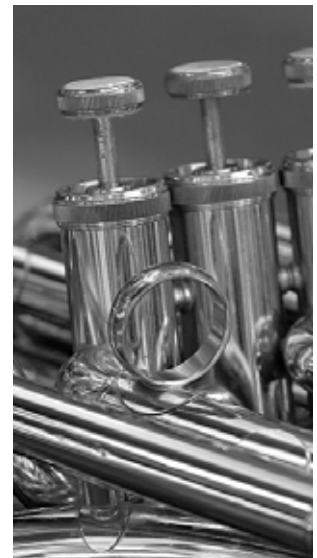
TH 1916
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Margaret Werry
Theatre

Zombies fill our television screens, dead pop icons come back as holograms in massive arena concerts, immortal cell-lines derived from long-dead humans fill laboratories around the world, and now we can even pay an AI service to maintain our social media life indefinitely after our death. What are the dead doing in contemporary culture? We live in an age when the boundaries between the living and the dead are being redefined. But what are the ethical consequences of this redefinition? Who owns the dead and who gets to profit from them? Do the dead have rights? How do those who are dead but not gone remind us of what we owe to history? What are the responsibilities of the dead to the living and the living to the dead?

To answer these questions, this course analyzes examples from popular culture, film, literature, science, and media, past and present. It trains students in skills of research and cultural analysis that are used in several disciplines, from anthropology or literary studies, to media, communications, theatre, sociology, and art history.

My research focuses on the way that people, and things, "perform" outside the walls of traditional theatre, in places of public culture and pedagogy such as tourism attractions or museums. This work is interdisciplinary, mixing the methods and concerns of performance studies, theatre, anthropology, media and cultural studies, and history. My interest is in the politics of performance, that is in analyzing the relationship between the aesthetic, kinaesthetic, relational, affective, and embodied dimensions of performance behaviors, and the broader problems of power and history with which they are entangled, such as indigenous sovereignty, human rights, climate change, colonialism, and global neo-liberalization.



Aquatic Toxicology, Water Safety, and the Society

VPM 1901
2 Credits
Spring 2023

Dr. Ashok K. Singh
*Veterinary Population
Medicine*

Our planet Earth is dominated (>70%) by water. The hydrosphere contains about 1.36 billion cubic kilometers of water mostly in the form of a liquid (water) that occupies topographic depressions on the Earth. The second most common form of the water molecule on our planet is ice. If all our planet's ice melted, sea-level would rise by about 70 meters.

Water is also essential for life. Most animals and plants contain more than 60% water by volume. Without water, life would probably never have developed on our planet. Water contains nutrients that are essential for life. Nutrients are extracted from rocks and sediments.

At present, human activity is dumping harmful pollutants (poisons) in surface and ground water. Poisons distribute between water and sediments, depending on the properties of the toxin, soil characteristics and water chemistry. Therefore, poisons present in water may contaminate both the aquatic and the soil dwellers, and plants, thus contaminating the food chain for humans as well as animals. The overall aim of this course is to discuss (i) effects of water pollution on aquatic and terrestrial organism including humans, (ii) water quality issues and (iii) water safety.

Dr. Ashok K. Singh is an associate professor of Toxicology in the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine. His research interests include (1) nanoparticle, analytical and environmental Toxicology, (2) influence of human activities on the Earth, its climate, and inhabitants, and (3) predictive toxicology. He teaches courses in sustainability and sustainable development, influence of human activity on global ecosystems, and Toxicology.

Poison, Poisoning and Society

VPM 1903
2 Credits
Fall 2022

Dr. Ashok K. Singh
*Veterinary Population
Medicine Department*

In the United States, approximately 50,000 people die each year as a result of unintentional poisoning, and another 800,000 are treated in emergency departments. The human-caused pollution of the environment (such as oil spill, poisonous gas leak, water pollution, global warming gas release, etc.) seriously impacts the health of millions of people and animals around the world. Despite such serious health consequences, people do not fully understand poisons or poisoning. In this course, students will learn some important aspects regarding poisons including, but not limited to the following. -What are poisons and what is poisoning? -Where do poisons come from? -What are the adverse effects of different types of poisons? -How to prevent poisoning? -What are the impacts of poisoning to the society? Chemicals encountered in everyday life will be used as examples to evaluate the hazards and risk of exposure and put them into perspective. Students will learn the basic principles of toxicology, tools for assessing the toxicology of chemicals, effects of chemicals on the body, and why some people are more sensitive to chemicals than others.

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Systemic Racism, Injustice, and Inequality: Hurdles for a Unified and Sustainable Society

VPM 1909
3 Credits
Spring 2023

Dr. Ashok K. Singh
*Veterinary Population
Medicine*

The United States of America, in its Declaration of Independence, granted "freedom, life, liberty, and pursuit for happiness" to its citizens. The phrase "all men are created equal" refers to systemic gender inequality. The US constitution also is far from equal, suffering from systemic inequality, injustice, and racism, which, if not resolved, may present a serious hurdle in the path of building a unified sustainable society as defined by the UN's SDGs. The aim of this course is to explore whether the US can attain unity and sustainable development with constitutional inequality, injustice, and racism intact. We hypothesize that it will not.

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Arguing with Authority: The Past, Present, and Future of Higher Education

WRIT 1915W
3 Credits
LE: Civic Life and Ethics
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

Patrick Bruch
Writing Studies

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

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

Magazines and New Media

WRIT 1925W
3 Credits
Writing Intensive
Fall 2022

Thomas Reynolds
Writing Studies

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

Tom Reynolds' research and teaching examines ways that magazines and other popular forms of writing technologies "teach" us how to live our everyday lives and with what cultural assumptions. He is interested in exploring written and visual elements, and how these play out in print and new media writing.



Freshman Seminar Notes

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

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