Climate Change: Myth and Science – Kenton Bird
What roles do science and public opinion play in humanity’s response to global climate change? Does opinion equal scientific evidence? Should beliefs govern policy? How do the humanities – journalism in particular – shape understanding of what may be the most important challenge facing our planet? This seminar will explore humanity’s need to make sense of the world through mass-media representations, literature and other cultural expressions. It will test how journalists, scientists and policy makers shape public perceptions and actions.

Spanish Cinema and Reality – Faculty / TBD
This seminar will give a critical overview of the roles Spanish filmmakers from different backgrounds have taken to interpret similar trends in contemporary Spanish culture and society. (This course is taught in English.)

Facing Race: Reality & Illusion – Jan Johnson
Using a humanities and social sciences integrated methodology, this course will explore the meaning and significance of the concept of race in the United States. Nearly everyone thinks they know what race is, yet definitions of race vary from person to person. Few issues are characterized by so many definitions, myths, and contradictory assumptions. Many of us are so uncomfortable about race that we avoid talking about it. This course asks the question “What is this thing called ‘race,’ and what is its relationship to individual lives?” (Larry Adelman, California Newsreel).

Gender in the U.S. – Maggie Rehm
Why do some parents get upset when their little boys play with dolls or express interest in dance lessons? Why do some companies market products with slogans like “math is hard” to teen girls or suggest to adult women that eating chocolate is “sinful” behavior to be indulged in with a secret feeling of transgressive pleasure? This course explores gender as one of the primary systems humans use to organize and understand their communities and their interpersonal relationships, focusing in particular on the shifting ways gender has been performed and policed in the United States.

Sports and American Society – Sharon Stoll
Students will explore the central role of sports in America through ethics, sociology, history, literature, film, political science, physical education and cultural studies.

Globalization – Erin Damman
The theme of this course is globalization; the interconnectedness of economies, cultures, societies, and political systems on a global scale. It is a phenomenon that we effect and in turn has an effect upon us. Rather than examining globalization as a good or bad phenomenon, we’ll have an opportunity to explore our place in a globalized world as a way of empowering ourselves to take action in our local, national, and global communities.

Love and Happiness – Tom Drake
Students will analyze the cultural forces that have shaped our current definitions of love and how loving well can help us lead happier lives.

Ancient World: Myth & Reality – Faculty / TBD
The Mediterranean Sea has been the bridge to three continents, and thus the matrix of a wide variety of human cultures and civilizations. The region was distinguished by experimentation in politics, belief systems, language, architecture, and social organization as people sought to explain the world around them, the thoughts inside their minds, and the world beyond them. This course explores the unique contribution to world civilizations of the facts and fictions constructed by the peoples of the ancient world.
Higher Education: Earth in Mind – James Gregson
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a learning process (or approach to teaching) based on the ideals
and principles that underlie sustainability. It is concerned with all levels and types of learning to provide quality
education and foster sustainable human development—learning to know, learning to be, learning to live
together, learning to do and learning to transform oneself and society. Because many scholars of ESD have
argued that sustainability is fundamentally a moral and political question, it is imperative that the humanities
and social sciences be considered in developing a vision of ESD so that people, locally and globally, are equipped
with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to create a sustainable future.

World Music in Society – Javier Rodriguez
This course introduces music and dance cultures outside the Western art and popular music traditions. Students
will discover the richness and diversity of some of the world's musical cultures, and develop ways for further
exploring and appreciating different cultures through music.

The Creative Mind – Elizabeth Sloan
This course provides an interactive platform to explore avenues of investigation, apply creative strategies to
pertinent opportunities, and encourage asking questions over finding answers. Students will investigate the
power of creativity in their personal and academic lives with enhanced critical thinking skills. If students don’t
begin the semester with an insatiable curiosity, they should expect to end the semester with this foundation.

NEW! How Humans Differ From Other Animals – Donald Tyler
In this course we explore what it means to be human, including how characteristics unique to humans
developed through evolution, how humans compare and contrast with other social animals, how an
understanding of hunting and gathering ways of life can help us consider what is human nature, how our
contemporary ways of life shape our views of human nature, and how culture as fundamental to the human
condition has led to the diversity of ways of living in contrast with all other animals.

America and the World – Charles Dainoff
What does it mean to be an American? What is America’s place in the world and how did America get to that
place? What does America mean to the rest of the world and what actions led to that meaning? This course will
investigate these questions through an analysis of documents stretching from the aftermath of the Civil War in
1870 to the Obama Administration’s “pivot to Asia” in 2012. We will focus on the tension between the American
desire for expansion and a role on the world stage, and the American desire to isolate itself and put “America
First,” and the result of this tension and these desires and their impact on American domestic and foreign policy.

Social Media & Social Change – Katie Blevins
Section 3 – TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Social media have become an integral part of our media landscape, but they are also important tools in how
students manage and mediate their lives. What is public? What is private? How do we form our identity? What
does surveillance mean within this context? Students will examine recent examples of the evolving issues in
social media and make broad connections between concepts like globalization, activism, and culture using a
multi-disciplinary approach.

Into the Wild – Adam Sowards
Wild places are among the most meaningful and contentious places in modern America. This course explains
how and why that came to be, as well as explores what that means for the future here and elsewhere.

Spanish Cinema & Reality – Faculty / TBD
This course will give a critical overview of the roles Spanish filmmakers from different backgrounds have taken
to interpret similar trends in Spanish language, culture and society. (This course is taught in English.)
NEW! Everyone Has a Story – Faculty / TBD
Storytelling has been used throughout history and across cultures to entertain, to educate, and to build empathy and understanding between people. This course explores how stories reflect the social perspectives of the communities in which they are developed and shared. Students will be asked to consider: What are the universal themes found in stories across cultural and social boundaries? What is your story? How is your story different, and (more importantly) the same as stories told by others? The course culminates in the creation and sharing of personal stories that reflect the students’ answers to these questions.

NEW! Language & Society – Faculty / TBD
This course looks at how language shapes and is shaped by society. Students will explore the interplay of language with variables like class, gender, ethnicity, race, and age. How do these variables result in identity differences, prejudices, and discriminations in schools, workplaces, and communities?

Freedom and Its’ Limits – Casey Johnson
One of the central topics in the history of philosophy, which is as live today as it was centuries ago, is the nature of human freedom. This course will explore what it means for a person to be free from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives, including philosophy, political science, and biology.

ISEM 101 sections are open to all first-year students
(Students who have completed 58 or more credits need to request an override from Director of General Education, Dean Panttaja, panttaja@uidaho.edu.)