

ISEM 101

Integrated Seminar Descriptions: Fall 2019

Climate Change: Science and Myth – Kenton Bird

Section 11 – TR 9:30 – 10:45

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 interactive seminar will explore our need to make sense of the world through literature, film and the mass media. It will examine how geography, economics, politics and culture influence our attitudes towards climate change.

Contemporary Global Issues – Ro Afatchao

Section 15 – TR 11:00 – 12:15

Contemporary Global Issues considers both interconnecting themes (politics, economics, environment, war and peace, children, gender, sports, technology, popular culture, etc.) and the culturally specific ways these play out in countries and regions around the world.

New Wild West – Stephen Yoder

Section 20 – TR 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

This course utilizes history, anthropology, sociology, political science, literature, film, and environmental studies to examine current issues in the New West. Topics include: water, public lands, socio-cultural constructs, tourism, and population trends of the West. Students will explore these topics through integrating their own well-informed knowledge base on humans and the environment to gain a comprehensive understanding of the “New” American West.

Globalization – Doug Habib

Section 21- Online (WWW)

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 affect 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.

Scientific Revolutions – Staff

Section 24 – MWF 1:30 – 2:20

This course examines the history of several “revolutions” in the history of science and technology. We will begin by examining the basic philosophy of science: What is science, who are scientists, and what constitutes a scientific revolution? We will then study five “revolutions,” widely considered to have made drastic changes in the history of knowledge and production: The “Copernican Revolution” in astronomy and physics, the Anatomical Revolution, the Chemical Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the Information Revolution. Throughout the course we will seek to connect the developments in science and technology to the broader social and cultural contexts in which they were developed and debate the nature of knowledge production and what makes science “revolutionary.”

Sports & American Society – Stephen Yoder

Section 30– Online (WWW)

This course uses ethics, sociology, history, literature, film, political science, physical education, and cultural studies to explore the central role of sports in America. This integrated seminar examines the relationship of sports to gender, race, class, ethnicity, consumerism, media, and a number of other topics.

Everyone Has a Story – David Harlan

Section 43 – MWF 9:30 – 10:20

Section 44 – MWF 10:30 – 11:20

Section 47 – MWF 12:30 – 1:20

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: How are stories structured and built? 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.

The Sacred Journey – Rodney Frey

Section 48 – TR 9:30 am – 10:45

Sacred journeys provide foundational spiritual and cultural meaning and go to the heart of our humanity. This seminar will consider the sacred journeys embedded in Indigenous (American Indian), Hindu, Buddhist and Taoist communities. Sacred journeys are found at the personal level as "rites of passage," exemplified in spiritual quests, initiations into religious orders, states of illness and healing, and the final rite of passage, death. Sacred journeys are also be found at the collective level, such as "pilgrimages" to "sacred places," as illustrated in a Hindu traveling to Benares in India. Equipped with an interdisciplinary humanities and social science approach, we will explore the nature of sacred journeys and how they impact each of us, and also consider how these four traditions are unique as well as what they share in common with us. For more information:

<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/116.htm>

Food, History, and Literature – Ellen Kittell

Section 53 – TR 9:30 – 10:45 (Honors)

Using both history and literature, this course examines how the choice, preparation and eating of food not only shaped and formed cultures but also defined civilizations, from hunting and gathering to the present. In times of scarcity, the need to eat has spurred revolutions. Social class and social control are often expressed by what one eats, when one eats and how one eats. The dukes of Burgundy in the fifteenth century, for example, used to makes their courtiers watch them eat. So culturally significant is eating that literature is rife not only with characters defined by what they eat—think hobbits— but also with events that take place around breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Sport in Society – Sharon Stoll

Section 54– MWF 11:30 – 12:20

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

Food & Culture – Christa Abdul-Karim**Section 55 – MWF 12:30 – 1:20**

This course examines the role food plays in the lives of people around the world using a multidisciplinary and comparative format. What we eat says a lot about who we are as individuals and our culture. Food gives us an opportunity to socialize with family, friends, and the community; transmits culture; defines family and gender roles; represents religious beliefs; plays a role in festivals and holidays; and becomes part of our identity, among many other things. We do not eat just to ingest calories; what we consume ties us to the environment and is also often a political and ethical act as well. This course will examine these issues and others using ethnographies and contemporary media, as well as food!

The Creative Mind – Elizabeth Sloan**Section 56– TR 12:30 – 1:45 (Honors)****Section 57 – TR 2:00 – 3:15**

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.

The Culture of Death & Dying – Christa Abdul-Karim**Section 59– MWF 1:30 – 2:20****Section 60- MWF 9:30 – 10:30**

It is an inevitable fact that everyone dies but what do we truly understand about death. What constitutes the moment of death and what happens after someone dies? How do the dead continue to dwell among the living? What do stories of ghosts, vampires, and zombies tell us about our beliefs surrounding life and death? How do we memorialize the dead in the forms of monuments, relics, paintings, jewelry, and other objects? This multidisciplinary course examines different cultural views surrounding death, dying, mortuary ritual, mourning, the afterlife, and the political lives of dead bodies.

Love and Happiness – Tom Drake**Section 62 - MWF 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

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

Facing Race: Reality & Illusion – Jan Johnson**Section 64– MWF 9:30 – 10:20**

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*).

Art & Society – Christa Abdul-Karim

Section 65 – MWF 10:30 – 11:20

Section 66 – Online (WWW)

This course focuses on the cross-cultural examination of art and challenges students to make connections between the forms of art a culture produces and its values, worldviews, traditions and history. The class emphasizes the anthropological understanding of art, a perspective that highlights art as a culturally relevant form of symbolic expression; in doing so, it also explores theoretical approaches to art and its interpretation employed by other disciplines. The course uses literature, film, graphic novels, and other art forms to cover such topics as: what is art, how does art reflect the culture of a society, meanings and symbolism in art, art as protest, and more through a variety of perspectives.

US Latino: Roots & Identity – Staff

Section 72 – MWF 10:30 – 11:20

Section 73 - MWF 2:30 – 3:20

Students study the Mexican-American experience from colonial times to present and their vital role in shaping American culture.