ISEM 101: Integrated Seminar Descriptions
Fall 2017

**NEW!** Adulting: Life, Love & Money – Kelsie Smathers
Section 2 – TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
This course offers a practical approach to learning necessary life skills such as money management, navigating personal relationships, and planning for the unexpected things in life. Using an interdisciplinary approach this course explores how emotions affect the use of money, and how that affects relationships throughout the lifespan. Students will learn smart decision making skills to help them succeed in the college and post-college world.

**NEW!** 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.

Mexico: Society, Politics & Art – Ana Alcocer Arreguin
Section 4 – MWF 1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.
This course will focus on the historical and socio-political aspects of Mexico as viewed through its art. We will cover areas such as the Mural movement and the political events that inspired famous muralist painters like Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros to send nationalistic, social and political messages through their art in the 1920s. We will also study how these works of art reflected the times. This course will also discuss the life and art of other artists such as Frida Kalho, who is considered one of Mexico’s greatest artists and who also became a feminist icon to the world. *(This course is taught in English.)*

Families in the United States – Ryanne Pilgeram
Section 5 – TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Section 6 – TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
This class is designed to help students critically evaluate, even rethink the way they think about families (their own and others’ families). Students will develop an understanding of families as a social institution that varies across time and culture. In addition, students will learn how families are constrained by structural conditions, and how families are an important institution that affects the structuring of society. Specific topics include: the history of marriage in the United States, the gendered construction of parenting, the idea of college “hook-up” culture and the effect that inequalities play in the American family.

The Monsters We Make – Victoria Arthur
Section 7 – MWF 10:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.
This course will explore monsters both classical and contemporary through literature, film, philosophy, and art. We will consider such questions as: “What makes something (or someone) monstrous?” “How does what is considered monstrous comment on what it means to be human?” and “What do the types of monsters we create say about us?”

The United States in the World
Section 8 – TR 9:30-10:45 a.m. – STAFF
Section 14 – WWW – Greg Atkins
This class investigates the history of important economic, political, social, and cultural connections the United States shared with the world from 1877 to present. This enlarged view emphasizes the national and global
contexts of crucial developments such as the International Monetary Fund and the Bretton Woods Conference, decolonization and the civil rights movement, and the politicization of religions in the War on Terror.

**Gender in the U.S. – Maggie Rehm**  
**Section 9 – TR 11:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.**  
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.

**Climate Change: Science & Myth – Bill Loftus**  
**Section 10 – WWW**  
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 – and 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.

**Facing Race: Reality & Illusion – Jan Johnson**  
**Section 12 – TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.**  
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. Most of us think we understand what race is, and yet few issues are characterized by so many definitions, myths, and contradictory assumptions. And most of us are very uncomfortable talking about race for a variety of reason. This course is premised on the idea that we can learn to talk about race, and that we must learn to talk about race in a serious, well-informed way in order for us to solve social problems and to create peace, justice and reconciliation.

**Globalization**  
**Section 15 – TR 11:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. -- STAFF**  
**Section 21 – WWW – Douglas Habib**  
This section will focus on and examine how globalization influences human civilization and vice versa, including the role of politics, economy, geography, culture, race, gender, and religion in the formation of global communities.

**NEW! Ancient World: Myth & Reality – STAFF**  
**Section 16 – TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**  
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.

**Engineering Challenges: Past/Present – Joseph Law**  
**Section 17 – MWF 2:30 p.m.-3:20 p.m.**  
The National Academy of Engineers is seeking solutions to 14 of the greatest problems facing society. To provide context for current and future engineering challenges, this course will explore historical and ethical
dimensions of past engineering achievements. Case studies may include rural electrification, the Manhattan Project, the U.S. space program and the interstate highway system. Because interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to addressing these challenges, enrollment is open to students from all majors.

American Culture Through Popular Culture – Ken Faunce
Section 22 – WWW
This course will explore American popular culture and the role of gender, race and ethnicity, religion, politics, and economics in movies, television, music, sports and other popular arts in relation to changes within the United States, which will highlight the diversity of popular culture. Students will examine the impact that popular culture has on society and history as well as society’s impact on popular culture. The course will also explore how the diversity of American culture is expressed in popular culture and how this expression has changed over time.

Freedom and Its Limits – STAFF
Section 25 – TR 12:30-1:45 p.m.
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.

Sports and American Society
Section 30 – MWF 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. – Sharon Stoll
Section 42 – WWW – Stephen Yoder
Students explore the central role of sports in America through ethics, sociology, history, literature, film, political science, physical education and cultural studies.

Nightmares in Red-White-Blue: The American Dream and the Horror Film
Section 38 (Honors) – TR 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. – Russell Meeuf
Section 39 – TR 3:30-4:45 p.m. – Benjamin James
Section 40 – TR 12:30-1:45 p.m. – Benjamin James
Covering the history of the U.S. horror film, this course explores the nightmarish vision of the “American Dream” offered by popular cinema. Connecting horror films to a variety of historical traumas, students will examine how cinema addresses these challenges to the dream of upward mobility, equality, and democracy.

Musical Rhythms of the World – Barry Bilderback
Section 45 (Honors) – TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 a.m.
Through applying a wider definition of “rhythm” than that of music, this course examines the ways that musical practice can reflect cultural beliefs. Through examining and listening to different musical forms from around the world, students will begin to observe and understand underlying similarities within forms that may sound very different. Students will also discover the ways that social standards can influence musical practices within cultures. No musical background is necessary for this course.

World Music in Society – Javier Rodriguez
Section 46 – TR 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
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.
Music and Change in America – Grant Elgersma
Section 52 – World Wide Web
Music reflects and transforms the lives of individuals, communities and societies. In this course, we will explore how music forms, affirms and challenges social identity. We will also examine the ways American popular music empowered communities to find a voice in response to moments of societal and political upheaval. From minstrelsy, blues, and folk to rock ‘n’ roll and hip hop, we will explore how American popular music reflects the nation's cultural tensions and effects change. In the words of Bruce Springsteen: “The best music, you can seek some shelter in it momentarily, but it's essentially there to provide you something to face the world with.”

The Creative Mind – Elizabeth Sloan
Section 56 (Honors) – TR 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.
Section 57 – TR 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
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.

Jupiter, Venus & Mars – Elizabeth Sloan
Section 58 – TR 12:30 p.m.- 1:45 p.m.
“Women are from Venus, Men are from Mars” has become a catch phrase that crosses multiple gendered and generational communications. Add the planet Jupiter to this swirl as a symbol of the complex mix of identities and cultures that 21st century college students encounter. The success of every relationship is based on a foundation of articulating information and embracing diversity. Students will explore resources that this “20-something” decade has to offer in a search to create meaningful lives, and discover some of the ways and means to accomplish these ideas. Success might be defined by ending the semester with more questions than answers.

Love and Happiness – Tom Drake
Section 62 – MWF 10:30 a.m.- 11:20 p.m.
Section 63 (Honors) – MWF 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.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.