

Fall 2015 ISEM 101 Integrated Seminar Descriptions

Sacred Journey into Religious Communities – Rodney Frey – Honors

Section 4 – TR 8:00 am – 9:15 am

Using humanities and social science lenses, we will explore the meaning and significance of the sacred texts and stories, and of the sacred pilgrimages and rites of passage, that help create and sustain American Indian, Hindu and Muslim communities throughout the world. As the course methodology is self-reflexive, students will “travel” into the sacred communities of others while at the same time explore and perhaps unveiling special and revered territories within themselves.

Contemporary Spanish Cinema – Marta Boris Tarre

Section 5 – MWF 12:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

In this seminar, we 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.

New Wild West – Steve Yoder

Section 6 – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The New Wild West examines current issues in the “New West” such as: water, public lands, wolf recovery, socio-cultural transitions, people and peopling of the West (contemporarily and historically), wilderness, endangered species, tourism, energy, forest health, grazing, etc. This is accomplished using the lenses of history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, literature, film, and environmental science. Students develop a basic understanding of many controversial environmental issues and indigenous rights conceptualization, integrating their own well-informed knowledge base on humans and the environment in the American West.

US Latino: Roots & Identity – Lori Celaya

Section 7 – MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This survey offers an overview of Latinos/as in America and the Latin American Roots that engendered a double consciousness in this group of the American population. Topics include the construction of identity in terms of race, gender, sexuality, and class, the experiences of the exile, the immigrant, the refugee and the colonial subject; the marketing of the Latino/a identity. Clearly, one cannot understand the Latino presence in the U.S., unless we understand America’s role throughout Latin America. In fact, increasing the presence of this group in the United States is the result of more than a century of American domination throughout Latin America.

Gender in the U.S. – STAFF

Section 9 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Students learn how gender shapes communities, identities, and interpersonal relationships, focusing on the shifting ways gender has been performed and policed in the United States at different points in the country's history.

Climate Change: Myth and Science – Kenton Bird and William Loftus

Section 12 – MW 3:30 – 4:45 (Bird)

Section 13 – MW 3:30 – 4:45 (Loftus)

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 public understanding of what may be the most important scientific endeavor affecting our collective future? This integrated seminar will explore humanity’s need to make sense of

the world in which we live through mass-media representations, literature and other cultural expressions. It will test how journalists, scientists and public policy players shape public perceptions and actions.

Globalization – Ro Afatchao – Honors

Section 15 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

We 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.

Native American Survivance – Jan Johnson

Section 18 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

This seminar gives you the opportunity to learn about and meet Native American people of this landscape and how they are connected to it. We'll explore how Indian tribes have survived policies meant to destroy them, and are now gaining strength politically and culturally.

Got Privilege? – Shannon McGowan

Section 19 – MWF 2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Section 20 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

This course will explore the characteristics and privileges associated with the dominant culture in America. We will analyze how these privileges are maintained despite the growing diversity of our population and what it means to be a part of the dominant culture.

Women, Politics and Pop Culture – Juliet Carlisle

Section 23 – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

This course deals with women, politics, and popular culture. Rather than focus merely on women in politics or politics and popular culture, we will spend the course investigating and analyzing the interplay of all three. Thus, we will explore how popular culture in its many forms influences politics and political behavior and especially our understanding of women's roles in society and politics. Throughout the course we will analyze representations of gender, sexuality, race, and class as intertwined and dynamic social categories embedded in popular narratives about "women," and "women in politics."

Scientific Revolutions – Somaditya Banerjee

Section 24 – WWW

An introductory survey of the history of the natural sciences examining the works of leading scientists from 16th till the 20th century.

Sports and American Society – Sharon Stoll and Steve Yoder

Section 30 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (Yoder)

Section 31 – MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. (Stoll)

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

Impact of Conflict – Christina Cliff

Section 34 – MWF 9:30 a.m. – 10:20 p.m.

Conflict happens daily at the individual, group, community, and international levels. This course will examine explanations for conflict relating to culture, norms, and identity at both the domestic and

international levels. Issues such as the cultural impact of various forms of domestic and international conflict and the role of news, popular culture, and social media will be investigated through literature, scholarly analysis, and film. By the end of the semester, students will understand and be able to analyze the impact of conflict on their daily lives and the global community.

Nightmares in Red-White-Blue, The American Dream and the Horror Film – Russell Meeuf and Benjamin James

Section 38 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (James)

Section 39 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 a.m. (Meeuf)

Section 40 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (James)

Covering the history of the US 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.

Sacred Journey – Sayantani Dasgupta – Honors

Section 41 – MWF 12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

The word “sacred” means worthy of respect or religious veneration, and protected from interference or violation. Sacred can be both religious as well as secular. Sacred can imply god, family, nation, food, art and architecture. It can build societies but also cause wars because one person’s sacred can be another’s profane. In this multidisciplinary class, we will incorporate diverse fields such as history and art to understand “sacred” as relevant to our individual quests, and to Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, three of the world’s most important faiths.

Musical Rhythms of the World – Barry Bilderback

Section 45 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.

This course explores the ways that musical rhythm, communication, and performance embody and reflect social and cultural beliefs

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.

Creative Mind – Elizabeth Sloan

Section 57 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Section 68 – TR 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Students will investigate the power of creativity in their personal and academic lives with enhanced critical thinking skills.

Jupiter, Venus & Mars – Elizabeth Sloan

Section 58 – MWF 12:30 p.m. – 1:25 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 “twenty-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 – Honors

Section 63 – 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.

Exploring World Communities – Ken Faunce

Section 70 – WWW

Students will study economic, cultural, social, environmental and political exchanges on a global scale while examining the role of race, gender, sex orientation, and religion in the formation of global communities.

Globalization and Food Traditions – Sayantani Dasgupta

Section 81 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

We are what we eat. Within the context of Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic faiths this seminar will examine religious sanctions, restrictions, and practices centered on food, the practice of eating and feeding consecrated items, offering sacrifices, the notions of purity and pollution, festival feasts, ritual meals, etc.