

Spring 2014 ISEM 101 Schedule and Seminar Synopsis

The Indigenous in Us All. Honors section

Section 3 – TR 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Instructor: Rodney Frey

Using a humanities and social sciences integrated methodology, we will explore the meaning and significance of the oral traditions and stories, and of rites of passage and world renewal ceremonies, that help create and sustain Indigenous communities throughout the world today (such as the American Indian). As the course methodology is self-reflexive, students will “travel” (through the learning activities) into these Indigenous communities, while at the same time explore and perhaps unveil special and revered territories within him or herself, and his or her own community. What distinguishes the Indigenous from you and what do we all share in common? What is the meaning of rites of passage and how do they influence our lives? How is identity formed, and how are communities held together? What influences our capacities to love and to hate one another? How are we to engage the many strangers amongst us? **NOTE:** allow time for regular out-of-class group meetings. URL:

<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/101a.htm>

Native American Mystery: They’re Still Here, We’re on Their Land, So Why Don’t We Know Them?

Section 8 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Instructor: Jan Johnson

This course gives you the opportunity to learn about and meet Native American people of this landscape. We’ll learn tribal histories and cultures and explore how tribes have responded to policies intended to change them. We’ll survey popular stereotypes about Indians, and how Indians have responded to them. We’ll also ask why public schools tend not to teach “real” American Indian history or about contemporary American Indians, and explore the ways contemporary Indians are telling their own stories. The course is co-taught by Tribal guest speakers and emphasizes hands-on learning, personal reflection, inter-cultural interaction and student collaboration. It culminates in the creation of a digital storytelling project.

Gender in the U.S.: Manly Men, Womanly Women, and the Rest of Us.

Section 9 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Instructor: 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 at different points in the country’s history. It introduces students to the gender ideologies that shape our lives, examines relationships between racial/ethnic/tribal identities and ideas about gender, explores the roots of anxieties about “incorrect” gender performances that can lead to censure or limit self-expression, and invites careful scrutiny of gender patterns and gendered thinking. Course materials will include essays, films, theater, poems, songs, cartoons, science articles, news articles, advertisements, propaganda, and other cultural artifacts.

Globalization. (Includes service-learning projects in the community)

Section 16 – TR 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 p.m. Instructor: Jacqueline Maximillian

We will focus on and examine how globalization influences human civilization and vice versa. We will examine the role of politics, economy, geography, culture, race, gender, and religion in the formation of global communities. Much of the class time will be spent in small group work or larger class discussions.

Sports and American Society

Section 31 – MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Instructor: Sharon Stoll

This seminar uses ethics, sociology, history, literature, film, political science, physical education, and cultural studies to explore the central role of sports in America. The course examines the relationship of sports to gender, race, class, ethnicity, consumerism, media, and a number of other topics. Course materials include essays, documentary and feature films, short fiction and poetry, and historical, legal, and sociological studies.

Contentious Politics: Insurrections, and Social Movements from Temperance to the Arab Spring

Section 34 – MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Instructor: Nick Jorgensen

This course will study contentious political challenges and movements across a broad geographic and historical range from both macro-historical or structural perspectives as well as micro- or individual-level ones. Students will not only learn about specific movements and campaigns but will also develop analytic skills as they juxtapose and compare cases from a variety of historical and cultural settings.

The Impact of Conflict

Section 35 – MWF 9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Instructor: Christina Cliff

Conflict happens daily at the individual, group, 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 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

Section 39 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Benjamin James**Section 40 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.** Instructor: Benjamin James**Section 58 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.** Instructor: Russell Meeuf

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 (modernization, the stock market crash, WWII, the Cold War, Vietnam, the rise of consumer culture, climate change, 9/11), students will examine how cinema addresses these challenges to the dream of upward mobility, equality, and democracy. In what ways does the horror film transform historical anxieties into grotesque spectacles of terror? Ultimately, we will ask whether the monsters lurking in the horror film represent our darkest fears that the dream is unattainable, or whether those monsters offer a nagging sense that the “American dream” is, in fact, a nightmare.

Understanding Media

Section 43 – MWF 9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. Instructor: Carl Mickelsen**Section 44 – MWF 10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.** Instructor: Carl Mickelsen

This seminar raises participants’ understanding of the vast array of media they encounter on a daily basis. It situates these media within the CONTEXT of their historical development and economic underpinnings. It then examines some basic factors determining the CONTENT of the media messages found in news, entertainment, advertising, public relations and political propaganda. Finally, the seminar explores the IMPACTS of media on the construction of self-identity including various aspects of social identity, gender identity, the development and expression of sexuality, and one’s self-image.

URL: <http://www.class.uidaho.edu/mickelsen/>

Music & Change in America: Born in the USA

Section 52 – MWF 1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Instructor: Grant Elgersma

Section 53 – MWF 2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Instructor: Grant Elgersma

Music has the power to transform individuals, communities and societies. We will explore how music can help individuals discover and/or affirm their identity and can empower communities to find a voice to respond to societal and political upheaval. From minstrelsy, blues and folk to rock 'n' roll and hip hop, popular songs influence the social and political transformation of an ever-changing society. 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: An Exploration of the Creative Process as a Tool for Critical Thinking

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Section 56 – TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Instructor: Elizabeth Sloan

Can thinking like an explorer make a difference in your future? Would answering a question such as "What if..." change the direction your life takes? Does curiosity have a top-off valve? By investigating such avenues through the lens of a Creative Mind, students will learn how to individually and collaboratively enrich their critical thinking skills to succeed at the University of Idaho and the world beyond. Humanities, social sciences, and the arts will be platforms to approach diverse interpretations and explore multiple perspectives for informative evaluation.

Jupiter, Venus & Mars: An Exploration of Gendered Communication

Section 57 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Elizabeth Sloan

"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 that cultures have come to embrace. The success of every relationship we have is based on a foundation of articulating information. Through avenues from verbal language to visual images, humans are a species that thrives on telling our stories, yet our intentions are so often misunderstood. Students will come to embrace diversity, learn to understand each other better, and gain a stronger sense of the gendered Earth we live on.

Dominant Culture in America

Section 63 – TR 2:00 p.m. 0 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Shannon McGowan

By incorporating a Critical Race Theory framework within the examination of popular media, arts, and literature, 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. This course will examine what it means to be a part of the dominant culture in America, how to identify the privileges associated with that identification, and the consequences of blindly accepting those privileges. Using current and historical media (popular movies, documentaries, advertisements, literature, scholarly journals, etc.), students will understand their place within the dominant culture, learn how to identify privilege and oppression, and be aware of ways to help minimize the perpetuation of privilege.

American Identities

Section TBD – TR 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Instructor: Maia Clay

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This seminar is to be a sustained and interdisciplinary exploration of the ways American society is constructed and functions. The seminar is framed around four broad concepts that commonly play an

important role in structuring how individuals and/or communities chose to represent themselves or how they are portrayed by others. The concepts are place, gender/sexuality, class and race. The class will explore these concepts through a variety of genres, including, social science scholarship, humor, film, literature, architecture, music as well as personal experiences, with the expectation that students will gain an understanding of the differences in the way the humanities and social sciences explore the world.

Exploring Global Communities.

Section 70 – World Wide Web (WWW) Instructor: Ken Faunce

Section 71 – TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Instructor: Ken Faunce

Globalization is a major force shaping the world today, which includes economic, cultural, social and political exchanges on a global scale. This process has altered existing communities and created new global communities. The course will examine the role of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and various interests play in the formation of global communities. Also, what is the relation of these communities with the environment. It is a topic that evokes strong feelings from many people, although few fully understand and appreciate the complexity of the issues it raises. It is a phenomenon that truly demands a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural perspective to understand.

Politics of War: Global Conflict in the 20th Century

Section 72 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Patrick Wilson (Section #72 Patrick Wilson)

The course is an exploration of the most tumultuous period in human history. Using political science, history, and economics it examines the politics leading to WWI and WWII, the social dislocation of the intervening years, and the strategic considerations that shaped both of wars. An interrogative learning environment will offer an opportunity to experience and explore the international and national communities that shaped how global citizens understood their place, and their nation's, in a system unraveling under complex pressures.

Origin of the Mind

Section 76 – TR 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Instructor: Russell Jackson

This course covers the evolutionary origins of information processing with a focus on human beings. The course material integrates the biological and environmental underpinnings of human behavior and how they affect its expression within and across human societies. The course emphasizes how cognitive and information science inform practical real life applications, especially for university students.

Globalization & Food Tradition

Section 82 – TR 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Instructor: Sayantani Dasgupta

We are what we eat. Food contextualizes us. It informs us about the world and reduces the distance between “us” versus “them”. But it’s also a weapon, a source of conflict. In this seminar, students will be encouraged to look at the “foreign” and “exotic” origins of common foods that make up the most ordinary components of every meal. What is globalization? What is its role in making these foods available to us? When did this globalization begin? What are the social and cultural repercussions of food and globalization. What is the role of food-related etiquette, some of which might seem arcane, ridiculous, or even plain foolish? Do these etiquettes preserve local/national identity? The term “food power” specifically means the use of agriculture (and distribution) as a means to control resources and commodities to manipulate political and economic influence. This seminar will examine how food power impacts ethical, cultural, and environmental disputes all over the world. We will examine fasting and feasting practices and restrictions on food that are followed by five of the world’s biggest faiths;

Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. What does it mean to eat consecrated items, offer sacrifices? What are the notions of purity and pollution, festival feasts, ritual meals, etc.?