

LIBERAL ARTS SEMINARS

Following is a list of liberal arts seminars with descriptions. The list is a combination of previously offered, currently offered, and future scheduled seminars. Not all seminars or topics are offered every semester. Seminars that are being offered for open registration periods are noted with the session being offered. This list will be updated as appropriate by the academic department offering a seminar each semester.

(Last Updated 03/29/2021)

SESSION OFFERED	SEMINAR AREA	SEMINAR COURSE NUMBER – TITLE - DESCRIPTION
	Social Science	<p>ANTH328 Social Science Seminar: Anthropology of Women An investigation of the status of men and women in hunting and gathering, horticultural, pastoral, agricultural, developing and industrial societies. Through this investigation we will discover the factors leading to sexual equality and inequality and make assessments about the status of women globally using a comparative perspective.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ART328 Humanities Seminar: Abroad London and Paris Designed to give students the experience of the arts and architecture present in the cultural centers of Paris and London. The student will present discussions in situ at the Louvre and Orsay in Paris and the Tate and National Gallery in London. Architectural tours of Versailles, Paris and London are also a course component.</p>
	Science	<p>BIOL328 Science Seminar (Harnishfeger) Seminar is a largely student oriented and directed endeavor within a framework provided by the instructor. The first few weeks are used to introduce and discuss the methods of science, methods which often are reported to be scientific but are not, the interpretation of statistical data, and the role of science within a democratic society. Thereafter, student groups or teams select topics for research and may present the results of their investigations in a variety of formats including panel discussion, lecture, multimedia, powerpoint, and debate to name a few. Use of films and prepared graphics is encouraged where appropriate. Research topics vary by week and semester. The well respected series by Dushkin McGraw Hill titled "Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Environmental Issues" and a companion volume concerning Bioethical Issues will be the required texts. The 40+ defined issues within these two volumes span a diverse range from the controversial application of gene therapy to enhance your looks to the appropriate degree of societal acceptance of an expansion of nuclear energy generation, offshore oil drilling and physician assisted suicide. Graduate students are expected to supplement beyond the active class participation, involvement with two presentations and the submission of two short written papers required of all students.</p>
	Science	<p>BIOL328 Science Seminar (Overton) This seminar fulfills the natural and mathematical science seminar requirement in general education for the Bachelor of Arts degree; it does not fulfill biology majors course requirements but may be selected as a general education elective by biology majors. Topics studied each semester vary, but have included selected readings on ethics in science, evolution, genetics and genetic engineering, behavior, the brain, physiology, medicine and the world's environment. Assigned readings are used as a starting point for further student research and presentations. The interrelationships of biology with other disciplines such as economics, political science, and history are considered. A primary goal of this seminar is to increase the student's exposure to some contemporary topics of biology.</p>
	Science	<p>CHEM328 Science Seminar: Genius and Madness Throughout history, genius and madness have often been linked. Recent research indicates that personality traits and brain structures associated with creative minds in the arts and sciences are often shared with those considered "insane". This seminar will examine the scientific contributions of history's greatest scientists, with a particular eye towards those brilliant scientific minds that were afflicted with some degree of "madness", from the suicidal (e.g., Ludwig Boltzmann, Paul Ehrenfest), to the quirky (e.g., Richard Feynman).</p> <p>The majority of this course will consist of student led discussions on the work of noted scientists. The impact of the major chemical concepts, discoveries, inventions, and/or paradigms on history, society, and/or a culture will be analyzed and debated. Students in this seminar will first and foremost expand their knowledge of science and its global impact, while also improving their public speaking, critical thinking, and rhetorical skills.</p>

	Humanities	<p>COMM 328 Humanities Seminar: Media Literacy</p> <p>This seminar introduces students to critical analysis of mass media practices and products that have potential to influence individuals, social groups, and society as a whole. Through reading, writing assignments, discussion and activities, students will explore the varied facets of media content and form, from television, movies, and music videos to news and advertising. Students will develop enhanced critical judgment about important issues involving the media's impact on people's values, ideas, and relationships.</p>
	Humanities	<p>COMM328 Humanities Seminar: Introduction to Film</p> <p>This seminar introduces students to film as a subject for artistic appreciation. Through reading, writing assignments, and class discussions, students will explore the creative techniques involved in making movies and examine the artistic style of several contemporary filmmakers. By taking this course, students will develop an enhanced awareness and critical competency in analyzing film as an art form.</p>
	Social Science	<p>ECON328 Social Science Seminar: Managerial Economics</p> <p>This course provides students with hands-on exposure to the economic methods and tools necessary to solve common day-to-day management problems that managers in a wide spectrum of organizations face. Some of the topics include pricing strategies under competition and market power, demand analysis and forecast, strategic decision making (how to decide when it depends on the actions of other institutions), dealing with uncertainty, and problems in organizational design. The course is appropriate for students from any field who want to learn how to use analytical tools to make better managerial and administrative decisions.</p>
FA 2021	Humanities	<p>ENGL 328: Humanities Seminar: Contemporary Black Women Writers</p> <p>And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow we do it; Somehow we've weathered and witnessed [.] --Amanda Gorman, "The Hill We Climb"</p> <p>In a 2003 interview, Pulitzer and Nobel prize-winning author Toni Morrison stated that "being a black woman writer is not a shallow place but a rich place to write from. It doesn't limit my imagination; it expands it." In the wake of Morrison's seminal work, the voices of powerful Black women writers have emerged in recent years, like that of Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. In celebration of those voices and the rich places from which they write, this course examines selected writings of late 20th century and 21st century African American (principally) and Black Diaspora women writers. The course will explore the ways in which these writers and their characters navigate the historically complex and intersecting forces of gender, race, class, sexuality, violence, faith, love and community in their quest to define for themselves a sense of identity and of their place in the world. Possible authors in addition to Morrison include Jamaica Kincaid, Gloria Naylor, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Claudia Rankine, Jesmyn Ward and Tayari Jones.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Contemporary British Novel</p> <p>The course will sample both popular & critically-acclaimed novels written in the last 20 years, focusing on the ideas of post-modernism, gender, sexual and national identity. The reading list will include <i>High Fidelity</i>, <i>Wolf Hall</i> and <i>Lines of Beauty</i>, as well as others.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Counter-Culture</p> <p>Applying the insights of Jean Baudrillard and Immanuel Wallerstein, this course will read twentieth-century US American counter-culturalism as a test case for an alternative world view that would favor the "slacker" and the "hacker" over jobs fetishism and the production/consumption lifestyles of the American Dream. Course may include writings by Alan Watts, Gary Snyder, Hunter S. Thompson, Louise Erdrich, Joan Didion, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, and Wendell Berry. It may also include screenings of such films as <i>Slacker</i>, <i>Clerks</i>, <i>Fight Club</i>, <i>The Big Lebowski</i>, <i>Do the Right Thing</i>, and <i>Into the Wild</i>.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Fairy Tale and Fantastic Fiction</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Feminist Dystopias</p> <p>In this course, through literature and film, we will be exploring the dystopian worlds of writers like Naomi Alderman, Margaret Atwood, Suzanne Collins, and Louise Erdrich (to name just a few authors), considering questions of gender and sexuality as related to the issues raised by these texts, and, hopefully, developing a richer understanding of the dystopian literary tradition and of its relationship to the social, political, and economic world we inhabit.</p>

	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Graphic Fiction and Nonfiction</p> <p>This course will provide an introduction to the contexts of graphic literature, both fiction (graphic novel) and nonfiction (memoir, history, social commentary as graphic literature). In addition to reading books in both genres, we will examine contemporary theories concerning their history and construction, narrative techniques incorporating words and pictures, the relationships between literary texts and their graphic adaptations, the cultural politics of telling stories this way, and the relationship between graphic novels and their film and video game adaptations. During the latter portion of the course, student presentations on student-selected or self-authored graphic texts will provide each member of the class the opportunity to apply the ideas of the course and introduce these texts to the class. There will be a substantial booklist (seven-twelve books, mostly paperbacks) which will be provided during the summer to pre-registered students to permit careful shopping, as well as excerpts from other texts which will be provided in electronic form. Students will be expected to participate online, as well as in class.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Invisible Disability</p> <p>In this seminar, we will read literature from a cultural studies perspective, in an attempt to answer questions such as: How might culture contribute to or inform the definitions of pathology and mental illness? How have authors portrayed characters or people with mental illnesses? How have filmmakers portrayed characters or people? How have the mentally ill portrayed themselves in literature and film? Written texts include short fiction, articles, a memoir, a novel, and semi-autobiographical material. Author's works that could be studied include: Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Perkins-Gilman, Sylvia Plath, Ken Kesey, Joanne Greenberg, Augusten Burroughs, and Martin Duberman. Visual texts include images and films; films that may be viewed include <i>Girl, Interrupted</i>, <i>Psycho</i>, <i>Stonehearst Asylum</i>, <i>The Faces of Eve</i>, <i>Titicut Follies</i> and <i>Sybil</i>.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Literary Techniques in Commercials</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: PA Authors</p> <p>From the inner cities, to the mountains and rolling hills, to the coal-mining regions, the Pennsylvania landscape is rich with literary heritage. This course allows students to celebrate "our own": Pennsylvania poets, short story writers, novelists, playwrights, screenwriters, and essayists who have explored the diverse and textured lives of characters grappling with the beauty, hope, and hardships of living in urban and/or rural Pennsylvania. Through a literary focus, the class supports English majors, as well as other undergraduate majors with the following interests: Recreation Management, Environmental Studies, Appalachian Studies, History, Geography, Economics, Political Science, Art, Music, Anthropology, and Sociology. The class will include guest visits from nationally known authors from Pennsylvania.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Politics of Literature</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Radical Women Writers</p> <p>"Well-behaved women seldom make history." –Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, 1976</p> <p>The British literary tradition is filled with women writers who were . . . troublemakers. These were female writers who didn't accept their societally constructed roles and, instead, chose to be radicals, rebels, and revolutionaries. In this course, we will examine transformative female writers who courted trouble and changed the world. Some of the issues we'll explore—spanning the late 18th-century to the present—include criticisms of traditional gender constructions, alternate understandings of gendered world views, and forms of protest against prevalent power structures. We'll consider our primary texts from theoretical, historical, and critical viewpoints and investigate the social, political, economic, and domestic spheres that produce such texts. Some of the radical writers we'll read might include Mary Shelley, Emily Brontë, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Daphne du Maurier, Angela Carter, Sarah Waters, and Paula Hawkins.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Reading and Writing Life-A Semester of Reading and Crafting Memoir</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Replacing Utopia</p> <p>Historically, utopian writers and thinkers received criticism on two fronts: 1.) ignoring present problems by offering fantasized escapes from material realities; 2.) creating fixed societies that employ totalitarian means to enforce their values. More recently, prominent feminist, postmodern, postcolonial, and post-Marxist thinkers have called for a return to utopianism as a means to envision a different future for exploited or underrepresented peoples. This seminar will examine utopian writing and actual experiments in utopian living across the Americas and England to generate an understanding of the</p>

		<p>practical implications of utopian impulses focusing primarily on utopias from the 19th-21st centuries. In these confused political, social, and economic times, the course should provide us with much-needed matrices to question our own values, the consequences of our actions and beliefs, and to envision strategies toward a more compatible world.</p> <p>The extensive reading list will include some reduced combination of the following writers: Thomas More, Edward Bellamy, William Morris, Mary Shelley, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Toni Morrison, Marge Piercy, Aime Cesaire, Donna Harraway, Don DeLillo, Ursula LeGuin, Martin Buber, Ernest Callenbach, and T.C. Boyle. Film screenings will likely include <i>Slacker</i>, <i>Metropolis</i>, and <i>Walkabout</i>. While divided into three units across primary modes of production, this course will explore the utopian settings to determine underlying assumptions about race, class, gender, technology, and nature.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Scandinav Crime Fiction</p> <p>Perhaps the most successful European import in North America and elsewhere in the world in the last decade has been Scandinavian crime novels and crime films/television series adapted from the literature, or that were specifically created for the studios. In this course, we will read several of these crime novels, detective fiction, and police procedurals from Scandinavia—also known as Nordic noir—to explore the relationship between literature and society. Our readings and seminar discussions will assess genre questions; in particular, how socialist societies interpret crime; the roles and representation of detectives, law enforcement, and the justice system; and the relationship between crime, social issues, and politics. We will also explore how Scandinavian crime fiction foregrounds the relationship between landscape, geography and crime, as well as cultural introversion and immigration. We will study the rise of the female detective, and how Nordic noir represents crimes against women, children and immigrants. Readings include select works in English translation by Peter Høeg, Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, Henning Mankell, Stieg Larsson, Liza Marklund, Kerstin Ekman, Camilla Läckberg, Anne Holt, Karin Fossum, Jo Nesbø et al. This course may be taken to fulfill a requirement for a humanities seminar, an English upper level, or a Women and Gender Studies course.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Short Fiction of Mark Twain</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Successes and Failures in American Literature</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Temptation-Narratives of Resistance and Surrender</p> <p>Narratives of temptation either establish or unsettle the boundary between the permissible and the forbidden, so they brim with cultural significance. Intriguingly, current psychological research indicates that our responses to enticing stimuli predict success or failure across a wide range of human endeavors. With these points in mind, this course tracks temptation narratives from their ancient roots to their most recent incarnations. We begin with short selections from Genesis, Homer’s <i>Odyssey</i>, and Ovid’s <i>Metamorphoses</i>. These readings lay the foundation for later texts that spotlight the ferocity of desire, whether for an alluring mate, unbounded material success, or simply knowledge itself. Notable medieval writings will include works by Boccaccio, Chaucer, and Marie de France. Next we will consider Renaissance depictions of temptation, which typically amplify the conflict between reason and appetite; writers will include Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, and John Ford. The last segment of the course focuses on contemporary depictions of temptation—which are really meditations on humanness itself—in the writings of Isabel Allende, Margaret Atwood, T. C. Boyle, Ian McEwan, and Chuck Palahniuk.</p>
	Humanities	<p>ENGL328 Humanities Seminar: Women Writers of the American South</p> <p>If people think about Southern literature at all, they usually think about one person: William Faulkner (whom Flannery O’Connor nicknamed “the Dixie Limited”). But the South, as a region and as a concept, has produced a bevy of intriguing women writers. Our class will focus primarily on three: O’Connor, Eudora Welty, and Caroline Gordon. We will also consider elements of Southern history and culture that provide a context for appreciating the art these women produced. Other writers might include Augusta Jane Evans, Kate Chopin, Katherine Anne Porter, Evelyn Scott, Frances Newman, Zora Neale Hurston, and Carson McCullers.</p>
	Science	<p>ENVT328 Seminar: Building Livable Communities</p> <p>This seminar expands the Environmental Studies minor offerings through a course that explores a more recent concept, <i>livable communities</i>. A growing body of literature points out that places envelop us in feelings, influence our movements, alter our opinions and impact our decisions about where we choose to live and play. Recent reports and research indicate an increased awareness of, and desire to, better understand space, place, and ourselves. Topics will include: environmentally sensitive land practices,</p>

		benefits of aesthetically enhanced planning, engaged citizens, historic preservation, sense of place, and opportunities for leisure and cultural appreciation – as they relate to livable communities.
	Science	ENVT328 Seminar: Ecopsychology Ecopsychology studies the relationship between human beings and the natural world. Basic assumptions that will be examined include the following: 1) disconnection between humans and nature results in suffering for people and for the environment, and 2) improvement of the relationship between humans and nature can lead to healing for people and for the environment. Topics will include the psychological and ecological impact of environmental alienation, methods of healing environmental alienation, psychological responses to climate change, and facilitation of personal transformation to support environmental action. Theory, research, and therapeutic approaches will all be emphasized.
	Humanities	ENVT328 Seminar: Wilderness in American Literature and Film In this course we will be examining the ways in which nature and the American wilderness have been represented in literature and film. In addition to short stories, poetry, and films, we will be reading several longer works (for example, Thoreau's <i>Walden</i> , Strayed's <i>Wild</i> . This course could count as a Liberal Arts Humanities Seminar, an upper-level English literature course, or as an Environmental Studies course.
	Humanities	FREN328 Humanities Seminar: French Cinema A survey of major films produced by leading French directors since the 1960s. Films will be studied as expressions of French culture and related to the special circumstances of French life, society and history that they reflect. Films will be discussed both in general aesthetic terms and in terms of specifically French values and specifically French way of life. Special attention will also be devoted to the differences between French and American filmmaking. Films are presented with English substitutes; no knowledge of French is necessary.
	Social Science	GEOG328 Social Science Seminar: Sustainability in Appalachia
	Science	GEOS328 Science Seminar (Dickson) An introduction to the composition, origin, occurrence, physical and optical properties, and identification of gemstones. The course illustrates how internal Earth processes produce various minerals commonly used as gemstones and how surficial Earth processes act to release and concentrate gemstones into economically viable deposits. Students will learn the geologic setting of gemstones, basic principles of mineralogy, crystallography, and gemology. Course topics will emphasize the rarity of gemstone deposits as it applies to geologic conditions necessary for their formation. Gemstones discussed include diamond, ruby and sapphire, emerald, aquamarine, spinel, topaz, garnet, zircon, tourmaline, kunzite, peridot, jade, tanzanite, quartz and agates, rhodochrosite, turquoise, and organic gemstones such as pearl, jet, ivory, and amber.
	Science	GEOS328 Science Seminar (Khalequzzaman) Water is one of the most fundamental resources needed for all life forms on our planet. For years, nearly everyone took water for granted. With a steady increase in human population the demand for water is rising, while the supply of quality water is dwindling. Topics addressed in this seminar will include all aspects of water resources, including the hydrologic cycle, watershed, aquifers, water uses, water as a resource and source of conflict, factors affecting water quality, water as an agent of shaping landforms, physical-chemical characteristics of water and their relations to aquatic life, and water-related environmental issues.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: African American History Race and racism have had a profound effect on American history. From the beginning, African-Americans responded to racism by developing strategies of their own to survive and develop as a community and a people. What are the contributions of these black men and women to American culture and politics? What can we learn about African-American culture and society today by listening to stories about their past?
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: America 100 Years Ago The year 1919 was full of cross currents, as it represented the end of one era and the beginning of another. The year was full of labor strikes, floods, a flu epidemic, prohibition, woman suffrage, bohemians, and a Red Scare. In this seminar, the class will experience the year chronologically as it was experienced by people at the time. Student research will emphasize putting a specific event from that year in historical context and exploring both consequences for people at the time and legacies for the current generation.

	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Asia and the World
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: China and India in Historical Perspective This course is a comparative study of the history, culture, political economy and environment of China and India in the context of the contemporary globalization process. Both countries are poised to become giants of the 21 st century. Students will look at current developments keeping in view their progress over several centuries, and study the impact these countries have had and will have on the world.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Civil Rights in US This course investigates the origins, dynamics and outcomes of civil rights movements in US history. We will examine these movements from the inside, seeing them as the participants did, but we will also view them from the outside, placing them in their historical (and political and social) contexts. Finally, we will attempt to develop some theories about these movements: how they develop, when they succeed (or fail), and what they accomplish. The course rests on the assumption that civil rights movements are a source of authentic politics and as such demonstrate democracy at work. The readings in the course also hold up to the light the internal tensions that often arise within these movements. The course uses a case study approach. The class will together examine several movements in-depth. For other movements we will hear presentations based on individual student research.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Climate Change in Asia This course will explore and analyze climate change, global warming, El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), food availability and famines in Asia over the past two hundred years. This will be done specifically in the context of ecological change that took place under western colonial dominance of Asia between 1800-1945. The process of globalization that followed post-World War II will form the foreground of analysis.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Crime and Punishment in the United States An in-depth exploration of the cultural influences and evolution of crime and punishment in the US from colonial times to the present.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Cuba This course will focus on the modern history of Cuba from the early nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century and beyond. The class will examine the political, economic and cultural history of the largest Caribbean island, the Cuban Revolution, the complex relationship it has had with United States, and the prospects for the future of this fascinating and complex island and its people. The course will combine discussion, readings, and audio-visual media with limited lecturing.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Fascism
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Gender, Sexuality
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: History of Medicine in the US
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Islam in Asia This course will trace the History of Islam from its beginning in the Middle East to its march Eastwards through Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Asia, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and China. As one of the world's fastest growing religion with a tremendously diverse community called <i>Umma</i> , the current turbulence in the Islamic Middle East will be analyzed in the context of its development in Asia and the World. Such fundamental issues as the message of Prophet Muhammad, Holy Quran, Jihad (Holy War), Crusades, Muslim Gunpowder Empires, Islamic Bridge of the World, Woman and Islam, development of Islamic military science, astronomy, cartography, medicine, mathematics, optics, etc., will all be studied in the context of the intimate relationship between Religion, Politics, Science, and Society.
	Social	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Native History US and Canada

	Science	An examination of the "history" of Native peoples who live in what became the modern nation-states of the United States and Canada. The course will begin with the "prehistorical" populating of the North American continent, examine the cultural development of Native peoples over the millennia but will mostly focus on their history of interactions with non-native peoples colonizing their homelands until the present.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Queer Cinema
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Sex in America: An Historical Perspective This course will examine the evolution of sexual beliefs and behaviors in the United States from the colonial time to the present. This examination will be done through discussion of a combination of readings of primary and secondary sources and the analysis of audio-visual media. There will be limited lectures.
FA 2021	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Sex, Love, Friendship in Medieval Europe "This course investigates the related concepts of and practices of sex, love, and friendship in medieval Europe. It explores the intellectual cultures of political, social, and spiritual love and friendship as well as medieval ideas about sex, gender, and marriage."
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Slavery in America This course will examine the historical experiences of people of African descent throughout the Atlantic world during the era of the slave trade. Hence, it will not only survey West African societies before and during the slave trade, but also the development of plantation societies in Brazil, the Caribbean and the American South. In particular, the course will examine the New World cultural influence of African slave and maroon communities.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Slavery, Slave Culture: Africa
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: The Crusades This class explores the origins, development, conclusion, and legacies of the medieval European Crusades, both internal and external. It investigates and evaluates the causes, meanings, and impact of religious wars against Muslims, Jews, pagans, and heretics. The class analyzes the ideological, social, and political circumstances that influenced the call for the Crusades and analyzes the ways in which the Crusades impacted medieval society, culture, politics, and religion. The course also analyzes the ways in which the Crusades shaped relations between the Western and Muslim worlds during the Middle Ages and into the modern era.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: The Era of American Revolution
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: The United States in Vietnam Course description: An examination of America's Vietnam War, including Vietnamese history and culture, French colonialism, American foreign policy in the Cold War, Chinese-Vietnamese relations, American and Vietnamese strategy, the antiwar movement, and the fall of Saigon. The course will combine readings, lecture, documentary films, and discussion.
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: US History 1945-80
	Social Science	HIST328 Social Science Seminar: Witchcraft This course examines the origins of the witch craze that spread across Europe during the seventeenth century. Beginning with an examination of the Eastern origins of the ideas of good and evil in the Western tradition, this course traces the development of the concept of the "the witch" through medieval Europe, and uncovers the gendered origins of this idea.
	Science Seminar	HONR328 Science Seminar: Genius and Madness Throughout history, genius and madness have often been linked. Recent research indicates that personality traits and brain structures associated with creative minds in the arts and sciences are often shared with those considered "insane". This seminar will examine the scientific contributions of history's greatest scientists, with a particular eye towards those brilliant scientific minds that were afflicted with some degree of "madness", from the suicidal (e.g., Ludwig Boltzmann, Paul Ehrenfest), to the quirky (e.g., Richard

		<p>Feynman).</p> <p>The majority of this course will consist of student led discussions on the work of noted scientists. The impact of the major chemical concepts, discoveries, inventions, and/or paradigms on history, society, and/or a culture will be analyzed and debated. Students in this seminar will first and foremost expand their knowledge of science and its global impact, while also improving their public speaking, critical thinking, and rhetorical skills.</p>
	Humanities	<p>LANG328 Humanities Seminar: Francophone and Hispanic Culture</p> <p>This Humanities Seminar offers a comparative analysis of selected movies from French and Spanish-speaking film directors from different countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America. It considers cinema as a reflection of the political, social, and cultural development of the countries and their people. Consequently, films will be studied not only from a technical or aesthetic point of view but mostly as a window into other cultures. This year's theme is war and dictatorship. Films are presented with English subtitles; no knowledge of French or Spanish is necessary.</p>
	Humanities	<p>LANG328 Humanities Seminar: French Cinema</p> <p>A survey of major films produced by leading French directors since the 1960s. Films will be studied as expressions of French culture and related to the special circumstances of French life, society and history that they reflect. Films will be discussed both in general aesthetic terms and in terms of specifically French values and specifically French way of life. Special attention will also be devoted to the differences between French and American filmmaking. Films are presented with English substitutes; no knowledge of French is necessary.</p>
	Humanities	<p>MUSI328 Humanities Seminar: Ethnic Music</p> <p>Music has often been described in the anthropological and ethnomusicological literature as a cultural universal. That is, all known communities of human beings have some system of what one ethnomusicologist has called "humanly organized sound." The meanings, social functions, aesthetic ideals, and behaviors associated with music vary greatly across the world's cultures; learning about these many customs engenders a broader world perspective. This course provides a general survey of music as it exists in the daily lives of various ethnic groups and will allow students to synthesize elements of culture, religion, and music into a comprehensive understanding of how music functions within a culture.</p>
	Humanities	<p>PHIL328 Humanities Seminar: Africana Philosophy</p> <p>An examination of the philosophical contributions of the people of African descent throughout the globe, but particularly in North America. Issues and questions to be examined include but are not limited to the following: What is Africana philosophical thought? Who are the major contributors to this philosophical endeavor? What issues permeate diverse Africana philosophical thought? What role does the issue of race and identity play in the philosophical practice of Africana people?</p>
	Humanities	<p>PHIL328 Humanities Seminar: Philosophy of Film</p> <p>This course will survey the various ways that philosophers have talked about film in recent years, discussing ethics, existentialism, analytic philosophy, feminism, Marxism and various other approaches to doing film-philosophy. Weekly film screenings will be prefaced by theoretical discussions and followed by interpretation and evaluation of the film in question.</p>
	Science Seminar	<p>PHYS328 Science Seminar: Power to Save the World</p> <p>We will explore the myths, fears, and truth about nuclear energy using Gwyneth Craven's book <i>Power to Save the World: the Truth About Nuclear Energy</i> as a framework. We will consider timely topics such as alternative and renewable energy resources, nuclear weapons and proliferation, and nuclear waste storage and disposal. We will trace the path of uranium, the most common source of nuclear fuel, from mining through storage. We will examine both existing and experimental nuclear reactors including a visit to a nearby research reactor. We will explore these topics together, through readings, discussions, activities, and brief lectures. Students in this seminar will increase their knowledge of nuclear science and the global impact of nuclear energy.</p>
	Science Seminar	<p>PHYS328 Science Seminar</p>
	Social Science	<p>POLI328 Social Science Seminar: Politics in Film</p>

	Social Science	<p>POLI328 Social Science Seminar: Watching Politics-American Politics on Film</p> <p>Watching Politics explores the political dimensions of film. Movies are a reflection of our political culture and yet film makers often strive to shape attitudes and beliefs through film. What do the films that Hollywood makes say about American politics? In what ways do films reaffirm cultural values? How might films be agents for change? We will explore American politics at home and abroad, covering topics including political campaigns, heroes and villains in the press, threats to democracy, nuclear dilemmas, and terrorism.</p>
	Social Science	<p>PSYC328 Social Science Seminar: Intelligence and Creativity</p> <p>This general education seminar is focused on the concept of intelligence, with creativity as an important aspect of intelligence. As a concept, intelligence is fraught with misconceptions, debate, and controversy. As such, there will be a vast array of topics that will be covered. These will include historical foundations of intelligence and IQ testing, theories of intelligence (e.g., psychometric, cognitive, developmental, and integrative models of intelligence), the nature and nurture of intelligence, the predictive validity of IQ tests, extremes of intelligence, and creativity as an aspect of intelligence.</p>
	Social Science	<p>PSYC328 Social Science Seminar: Issues in Contemporary Leadership</p> <p>Contemporary leadership is a survey course in leadership studies that can be taken by any student for social science seminar and writing skill credit. Online students investigate a range of issues in modern leadership through audio power point lectures, threaded discussions, group problem solving, field interviews, library and internet research, and student sharing of findings and ideas. The areas of study may include leadership issues, basic global leadership questions, real leaders in local community organizations, city and state leadership, good and bad national leadership, and leadership ethics and values. Students share their findings on class topics and summarize what they have learned.</p>
	Social Science	<p>PSYC328 Social Science Seminar: Modern Day Enslavement</p> <p>Despite the wide-spread abolition of slavery, someone is taken into slavery every 30-seconds. This course will examine the ways in which that slavery occurs, focusing on sex trafficking, labor trafficking, mass incarceration, and child slavery. We will examine these issues from a historical, psychological, sociological, political, and economic perspective. Although there will be some lectures to provide context, much of the course will be focused on student presentations and discussions.</p>
	Social Science	<p>PSYC328 Social Science Seminar: Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking, Mass Incarceration, and Child Exploitation</p> <p>Statistics show that someone is taken into slavery every 30 seconds, and that there are more people enslaved now than there were during the height of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Modern day slavery relies in part on human trafficking, mass forms of incarceration, and child exploitation, particularly child soldiers and child brides. This interdisciplinary seminar will examine the psychological, economic, and political aspects of human trafficking, mass incarceration, and child exploitation, as well as how they form modern day slavery.</p>
	Social Science	<p>PSYC328 Social Science Seminar: Modern Love: Sex, Gender, and Attraction in the 21st Century</p> <p>People have traditionally believed there are two sexes (male and female) and two genders (man and woman) that perfectly connect to each other (e.g., a male is always a man). Further, they have believed that love occurs between a man and a woman. As society's knowledge has advanced, that traditional belief has begun to change, as we recognize there are more than two sexes and more than two genders. What does that change mean, though, for our understanding of attraction and love?</p> <p>This class will cover various biological sexes, genders, and types of attraction to make conclusions about "modern love". This class will primarily consist of student-led presentations, with minimal lecture information. Although we will spend some time discussing biological concepts, there is no prior biology experience required. Information for the course will come from scholarly and popular readings, and students will be expected to be able to critically evaluate both.</p>
FA 2021	Social Science	<p>RECR328 Social Science Seminar: Diversity and Equity in Recreation</p> <p>This course would be worthwhile for anyone working in community services or community-based spaces. This course examines diversity and equity in the provision of recreation, leisure, and community-based services. The class explores recreation practice in multiple settings from historical, contemporary, and cultural contexts. The course is designed to engage students in critical thought and discussion on disparity in services based on dimensions of diversity including race/ethnicity, gender/sexuality, socioeconomic status, religion, and others. Course content includes a focus on personal elements of implicit and explicit biases and the development of cultural humility. Additionally, we examine influences on opportunities for</p>

		safe and equitable leisure, recreation, and play and measures to eliminate barriers to diverse, safe, and inclusive services.
		<p>RECR328 The Science of Play</p> <p>A review and critique of current research and literature examining the role of play in human development and well-being. Based on a collection of readings structured from a multi-disciplinary perspective, students will assess, reflect upon, and discuss the implications of play as a vital aspect of human development with particular emphasis on childhood and adolescence. Students will explore the role of play in their personal lives with implications for social, physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental well-being.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Sociology of Conservative Thought</p> <p>This course covers the political tradition of modern conservatism in the United States and would benefit students from all political perspectives. There will be a heavy emphasis on open discourse, application, and debate during each class period, as active student participation serves as a critical aspect of course grades. The aim with each class meeting is to present a specific aspect of conservative theory, and then to encourage respectful discussion over the strengths and weaknesses of the ideas in question. We will focus on four areas of conservative thought in this course and the role each plays in contemporary society: traditional conservatism, social conservatism, neo-conservatism, and libertarianism.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Age of Trump</p> <p>The academic study of society in the age of Trump is a sociologically significant topic. Both scholars and lay writers alike covered Donald J. Trump and his rise to the United States presidency. This course has a distinctive focus, because while it addresses interesting topics and questions specifically, it takes the study of the Trump phenomenon from a sociological approach. For example, students will learn about race, class, and gender and how these important societal components were directly applicable to the presidential election and the reaction that followed. This course also examines the sociological background to some of the key elements that shaped global society and culture, such as populist movements. Peer-reviewed studies, scholarly papers, and books are examined in this analysis as well as speeches, Internet sources, and popular articles.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Firearms and Americans</p> <p>In the United States there are more firearms than people. This seminar will explore how this came to be and why. It will contrast the American political evolution regarding firearms with that of similar countries, notably the United Kingdom. It will examine the cultural polarization around firearms. It will also explore the benefits and consequences of mass firearm ownership. This seminar will draw from many sources including those from history, sociology, economics and recent journalism. This seminar will not press students into one political direction or another. Rather, it will depolarize the debate by helping students see the world from the perspectives of others. It will make students' understanding of the firearm issue in American culture as complex as possible. It may make holding a strong political position on firearms more difficult.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Medical Anthropology</p> <p>Medical Anthropology applies a variety of anthropological theories and methods to understand human health, illness, and healing in a cultural context. It is the goal of the medical anthropologist to contribute to the improvement of health services in clinical and public health programs worldwide. Using a cross-cultural perspective, we examine the diversity of beliefs about health diagnoses and sickness and the many of healing practices used as treatment. From a cross-cultural perspective, we will examine the diversity of beliefs about human health and sickness, and a variety of healing practices by which people treat them. We also examine the distinction between disease and illness, as both concepts are uniquely experienced by different cultures.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Medical Sociology</p> <p>In this course we will survey central topics in the field of medical sociology, with an emphasis on understanding the following themes: structural and cultural dimensions of health; health inequalities, profession of medicine, the experience of illness, and attempts to reform the U.S. healthcare system. Throughout the course, we will apply sociological theory and recent scholarship to make sense of contemporary issues in medicine.</p>

	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Society and the State</p> <p>This upper-level course is intended to provide a sociological overview for students with an interest in exploring the relationship between society and the state. In this course we will study government institutions in the United States and the allocation of decision-making authority. Examination of this societal structure begins with understanding the theoretical foundations and relationship between the individual and the state. This course emphasizes its influence on public policy, and the connection to contemporary issues.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Sociology of Economics</p> <p>This course is designed to provide students with a systematic understanding of sociological themes found within economic phenomena. Sociology of Economics analyzes economic relationships from a sociological perspective focusing on markets, corporations, private property, and consumption. This course emphasizes the importance of social processes and social institutions such as law, government, entrepreneurship, housing, taxation, and technology within the context of social meanings and outcomes.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Sociology of Libertarian Thought</p> <p>What does a free society look like where all are subjected under the same law, where all are permitted to engage in voluntary transactions to create a multifaceted social order, and live free as sovereign beings? This upper-level course surveys the sociological sources of freedom and liberty in modern American society. We will debate the role of libertarianism from an academic perspective pertaining to various social issues and how it functions within contemporary culture. This course will address basic sociological ideas regarding social relations, social structure, social change and social interaction. The knowledge gained in this course will aid students in a variety of studies and careers, and help students improve their critical thinking skills concerning important issues of our day.</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Sociology of Religion</p>
	Social Science	<p>SOCI328 Social Science Seminar: Whiteness and White People</p> <p>This seminar will explore the development and maintenance of white identity. This will include historical analyses of European worldviews, but most historical and sociological attention will be on the American experience. This will involve explorations of the contradiction between slavery and freedom and the experiences of European immigrants to the United States. Analyses of the present situation will look at what we often call “normal” Americans as though they were not normal.</p>
	Humanities	<p>THEA328 Humanities Seminar: Women in Theatre</p>