

June 19, 2024

Fall, 2024

**First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions by the Instructors**

Catalog Course Descriptions May Be Found at  
[https://www.umb.edu/course\\_catalog/subjects/2023\\_Fall](https://www.umb.edu/course_catalog/subjects/2023_Fall)

**New Seminar:**

**Business Administration [BUSADM] 120G. Beacon to Business: Opportunities & Challenges**

**Section 6: Prof. Andrea Reardon. Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:15 and Mondays 2:30 – 3:30. Class Number 13897.**

**[Note: Sections 1 – 5 are open to College of Management students only. CM students should contact the Undergraduate Program Office, [upo@umb.edu](mailto:upo@umb.edu)**

This course will be your guide to uncover the essential principles and basic challenges of the world of business. Over the course of two-week modules, we will delve into comprehending a new function of business and discover how these principles apply and become relevant in real-world business environments through an integrated course project to which each student contributes: a social impact business plan. The social impact business plan is a strategic document that outlines how a business intends to address a social or environmental challenge, while maintaining financial viability. We add to these practical areas an understanding of the contexts in which business operates -- law, government, society, rapidly changing technology, new risks, the changing nature of careers, increasingly diverse workforces, and the broad global reach of business. This course will develop your capabilities in reading and critical thinking, oral and written communication, working in teams, information technology, academic self-assessment, and professional etiquette.

**Africana Studies [AFRSTY] 115G: Black Consciousness. Prof. Tony Van Der Meer. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Thursdays 2:00-2:50 Class Number 2661.**

This course will examine the development of Black consciousness in the 20th century. The social, economic, cultural, and political implications of Black consciousness will be explored. The impact of Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, The Harlem Renaissance, The Civil Rights/Black Power movement, The Nation of Islam and The Black Arts Movement on the development of Black consciousness will also be examined.

**American Studies [AMSTY] 110G: U. S. Society and Culture Since 1945. Prof. Anne Blaschke. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Mondays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 2579.**

This course examines the multiple, and often differing ways that Americans have lived, thought, and expressed themselves from World War II to the present. Much of our country's history has been defined by conflicts among ethnic groups and social classes about rights to economic, social, and moral well-being and even the right to call oneself an "American." To ponder these and similar problems, scholarship in American Studies draws on an interdisciplinary approach to thinking about life in this country. Starting with World War II, but with emphasis on the historical and the political context of American life since 1945, especially social class, ethnicity, race (most importantly, the African American struggle for civil rights), and work, we will use historical documents, literature, music, and movies to learn about the significant events and changes in American society since World War II and people's responses to them.

**Anthropology [ANTH] 112G: Understanding Human Behavior. Professor Alan Waters. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 and Tuesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 4416.**

This course examines the influence of culture on human behavior from an anthropological perspective. We focus on a number of case studies drawn from Native American, African and European contexts to consider how various aspects of culture — religion, technology, language, social structure, etc. — lead people to behave differently within different societies. The course readings include works of literature and history, as well as anthropological writings. During the course of the semester we consider such questions as: Why are there different cultures across the globe? How is culture related to human nature? Is it possible to understand a way of life that is truly different from one's own? How and why do humans typically misunderstand one another across cultural lines? The purpose of the course is to provide students with an in-depth introduction to the anthropological concept of culture.

**Anthropology [ANTH] 113G: Food and Society. Prof. Rita Shepard. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 2583.**

The focus of this 4 hour/4 credit seminar is food - a topic that is important to all of us. Throughout the semester we will explore how food is related to culture. Discussion topics include the origins of agriculture, modern agriculture and genetically modified foods, food taboos, food insecurity and hunger, festivals/feasting food, and more. The readings are structured around different aspects of these topics that will allow us to closely examine how food, society, and culture are interconnected, and I anticipate the discussions throughout the semester being quite lively and thought provoking. These class discussions will be facilitated by writing assignments and participation in group projects. In our study of food we will also learn aspects of critical thinking, careful

reading, as well as how to do library and web-based research. Longer writing assignments and oral presentations will allow you to apply these skills to specific questions and data sets.

**Cinema Studies [CINE] 121G: Space, Place, and Cinema. Prof. Linda Ai-Yun Liu. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 and Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 4332.**

This first-year seminar explores the many different ways in which space and place are represented in cinema, while also teaching students how to closely observe and critically analyze films. Drawing from cinema history and criticism, it examines how films instill spaces with meaning and transform them into distinctive places. Through screenings of a broad array of films, we will tour a variety of cinemas from throughout the world and investigate such topics as the role of settings in film narratives, and contemporary experiences of displacement and marginalization.

**Early Childhood and Human Development [ECHD] 101G. Young Children, Play, and Early Childhood Policy. Prof. Catherine Brayden-Callas. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:50. Class Number 4064.**

This course explores the meaning and development of play, in our own lives and in the lives of young children. The course also critically examines contemporary debates about the role of play in early childhood programs, and explores the ways early childhood policy shapes children's experiences of play. Play is a major contributor to the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of young children. Major theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of play will be examined. Topics to be covered in the course include: the role of play in social, emotional and cognitive development; learning through play; early childhood policy; and the influence of the political and cultural context in children's experiences of play.

**Economics [ECON] 110G: Economic Ideas. Prof. Ellen Frank Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 – 12:50 and Wednesdays 1:00-1:50. Class Number 2823.**

This first-year seminar course presents basic economic concepts and tools of analysis in the context of current economic issues. Controversies over the distribution of income, the role of markets, pollution, or globalization are often addressed, although topics vary with the instructor. Students may receive credit for only one of ECON 100, ECON 110G or ECON 112G.

**English [ENGL] 127G: Food Matters.**

**Section 1: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:50. Class Number 2657. Staff**

**Section 2: Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00 – 9:50. Class Number 2883. Prof. Mark Earley**

**Course Description:** Why does food matter? In this class we will explore our relationship to food and the role we play in the complex food system. We will read a selection of texts from a variety of genres as we examine different views on the meaning of food, food consumption, production, and sustainability. With the help of the readings and class materials, we will reconsider the ways in which we think about food and the associations we have with food, and we will carefully reflect on the implications of our food choices and our responsibilities as consumers in the complex food system. We also conduct research, both using library resources and first-hand field research. The assignments in this course are designed to provide you with experience in the following seven capabilities: *careful reading, clear writing, critical thinking, use of information literacy, teamwork, oral presentation, and academic self-assessment.* **Enrollment by Placement.**

**English [ENGL] 181G: Literature and the Visual Arts. Prof. Samantha Regan. Mondays, Wednesdays 4:00-5:15. Class Number 1104.**

In this course, we will connect literature (including short stories, poetry, plays, and graphic novels) to visual art (including paintings, film, and multimedia work on the internet). We will forge these connections using the theme of “identity,” paying close attention to how identity is created through characters, plot, imagery, color, movement, and space. How does literature and the visual arts attempt to represent the self as both an interior and exterior identity? How can we (or, can we ever?) represent the elusive workings of the self? How can art capture both the mind (our intellect) and heart (our emotions)? In working with the various versions, adaptations, and interpretations of the selected works, we will identify differences and similarities among different art forms, as well as the consequences of creative choice and circumstance. We will familiarize ourselves with literary devices and terminology such as genre, narrative voice, and diction, and understand how our awareness of those elements contributes to our appreciation and interpretation of what we read. We will engage in analytical, reflective, and creative writing about literature and visual art; ultimately, you will be able to articulate your opinions of why a piece of writing and its visual interpretation “works” for you and why it does not. Hopefully, our study of the concept of “identity” will broaden its scope, and will apply both to the *writers* we study, and to *you*, as a reader, writer, and viewer shaping your own identity.

**English [ENGL] 183G: Literature and Society--Experiencing Boston Culture, People, and Places**

**Section 2: Prof. Joe Ramsey.**

**This section is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Thursday 1:45-2:45**

**Course Number 1098.**

At UMass Boston, we are lucky that our home is one of America's most culturally rich, dynamic, and innovative cities. This first-year course emphasizes the study of Boston culture, arts, literature, and history, featuring exciting field trips into (awesome!) Boston. We focus on generating analytical and creative approaches to studying--and experiencing--urban spaces, using Boston as our hands-on laboratory. The course captures the excitement and imagination that defines Boston, including experiences such as taking walking tours of the city, having guest lectures, and visiting museums and restaurants. We have many memorable trips planned, such a tour of the Boston Harbor Islands and our annual visit to Edgar Allen Poe's statue on Halloween! This double course counts as TWO courses; the courses are offered back-to-back and you will be registered for both, giving us the needed time for Thursday afternoon field trips.

These TWO courses give you credit for your required first-year Composition course and your required First-Year Seminar: To be added into the course, which is blocked from student view, contact Rachel Puopolo, CLA Program Coordinator: [rachel.puopolo@umb.edu](mailto:rachel.puopolo@umb.edu)

For questions about the course or registering for it, contact the English Department during business hours: 617-287-6700. Students can continue to take a version of this double course in the spring (last year, word got out about how exciting the fall was and more people asked to be in the spring course than fall!). You can see photos from last year's spring class at this website: [https://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/english/course\\_spotlight](https://www.umb.edu/academics/cla/english/course_spotlight) Come join us as we go out into Boston and we bring Boston into our classroom!

**English [ENGL] 183G: Literature and Society. Section 3. Prof. Kenneth Sunnerberg. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 3386. This is not a “field trip” course connected with English 101. Class Number 3386.**

John Lennon once famously wrote (and sang): “[They] keep you doped with religion and sex and TV/And you think you’re so clever and classless and free . . . A working-class hero is something to be.” In this course, we will be examining the lives of “ordinary” people in America in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, with a focus on issues of race, sexuality, and class. Though primarily focused on fiction, poetry and autobiographical writings, we may also consider other art forms like film and music. The course will emphasize class discussion and teamwork based on the work of Toni Morrison, Junot Diaz, Roxane Gay, UMB Prof. Jill McDonough, and others. There will be two papers, one text-based essay exam, an interview project, and one oral presentation. A number of guest speakers have been invited. No midterm or final exams.

As we consider the broader historical and cultural contexts of our texts, we will also focus on conducting close readings, carefully examining the language of the work in question. At the same time, we will investigate some of the elements that make up a literary work: point of view, structure, tone, dialogue, theme, narrative technique, and characterization. In the process of so doing, members of this class will develop their critical and communication skills as readers, as writers, and as students of literature. A major goal of this course is to practice the following habits of mind essential to university-level educational success: Careful reading; Clear writing; Critical thinking; Information literacy and technology; Working in teams; Oral presentation.

**English [ENGL] 183G Section 4: Literature and Society--Experiencing Boston Culture, People, and Places. Prof. Virginia Karlis. Class Number 3953**

**This is an On-Line course, and not a double "field trip" course connected with English 101**

*BOSTON: Beantown, The Hub of the Universe, The Athens of America, Red Sox Nation, Celtic Pride.* In this course, we will read and discuss various literary works about Boston and by Bostonians. What makes this part of the world so uniquely independent yet wonderfully diverse? In 1773, history was made when Bostonians had their infamous Tea Party- boarding a British tea ship, and tossing the tea into Boston Harbor in protest of unfair taxation. Let's see what else we can find about the spirit of our city and its people. To complement the selected literature, we will also study visual interpretations such as art works, movies, architecture- whatever can be identified as a visual adaptation or connection.

We will familiarize ourselves with literary devices and terminology such as genre, narrative voice and diction, and understand how our awareness of those elements contributes to our appreciation and interpretation of what we read. You will learn to talk and write about literature and be able to articulate your opinions of why a piece of writing or its visual interpretation "works" for you and why it does not. Hopefully, our study of "Boston" writings will lead to you becoming one as well.

**English [ENGL] 185G: Literature and Film. Section 2 Prof. Penelope MacDonald. Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:15. Class Number 4705.**

An introductory examination of the relationship between moving pictures and the written word. Students will study how filmmakers and writers construct narrative, and how stories have been adapted across media. Other topics may include the following: the different ways that literature and film have dealt with the problem of realism, the use of iconic and symbolic modes, and the political implications of film.

**English [ENGL] 186G: Exploring Thompson Island: On the Ground and in the Archives. Prof. Brittanie Weatherbie-Greco. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 -10:50 and Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50. Course number 4677.**

Visible from UMass Boston’s campus, Thompson Island is an extraordinary environment in which to explore a specific place and how it has evolved over time. Through readings, discussions, and boat trips guided by experts in relevant disciplines, this course explores ways of seeing, investigating and “knowing.” Using a creative approach to history, the course engages with original documents and secondary sources to help answer the question: Why is Thompson Island worthy of our attention? The course reconstructs the Island’s historic and educational uses from the political, social, cultural, and scientific artifacts of the past, and hones the skills of making meaning from them as well as of developing good practices of environmental and archival stewardship.

Throughout the course, students will be asked to reflect on their own relationship with their physical surroundings and the role they want to play as stewards of Boston Harbor, its Islands, and UMass Boston. This course was developed through the “Living with the Urban Ocean” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**English [ENGL] 187G. Schooled: Rethinking Education. Prof. Susan Field. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:45. Class Number 3638.**

Schools seem to be institutions at odds with themselves: they are valued by society but never fully funded; they rely on ideas, theories, and structures from the past as a means of preparing students for their futures; and they claim to teach students how to think independently, but follow rigid rule systems, and standards. It’s no surprise that a system of education defined by such contradictions doesn’t ‘work’ for every student. In this class we will think about these contradictions, our own educational experiences, read literature about learning, and consider what experts, theorists and journalists have to say about school today. We will ask whether what we read can lead us to a deeper understanding of our own experiences and culture by examining themes such as gender, race and racism, socioeconomics and poverty, literacy and language, and power structures. Working with critical concepts and terminology will enable us to reach a better understanding of how meaning is created in the works we read and write. Our goal will be to understand and maybe even offer a solution to one of the many ‘issues’ in education. Who better to take on such a challenge than someone with years of recent and relevant experience in the system we’re working to understand and fix, someone like you?

**Labor Studies [LABOR] 111G: Work and Society.**

**Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 and Tuesdays 2:00 – 2:50. Prof. Nicole Aschoff. Class Number 2768.**

**Section 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50. Prof. Alejandro Reuss. Class Number 3269.**

**Section 3: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 – 1:50 – *and* Wednesdays 2:00 – 2:50. Prof. Alejandro Reuss. Class Number 3488.**

In this course, students will be actively engaged in learning about the interaction between the nature of work and the organization of society. How does the structure of work affect that nature of society? How does the nature of society affect the structure of work? What are the characteristics of a “good job”? How does the larger social context affect whether jobs are “good” or “bad”? How do issues of gender and race play out in the job market? Who gets what jobs and why? How do the gender and racial job issues connect to gender and racial issues in the larger society? Drawing on students’ own work experiences, combined with readings, possibly films, and visits from activists in unions and other workers’ organizations, the course will explore some of the challenges of race, gender, and class that arise in the workplace and interact with broad issues of social relations. A theme running through the course will be the extent of workers’ power and their quest for social and economic justice. Moreover, this course is defined not simply by its subject matter, but also by the emphasis that is placed on critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation. This emphasis is facilitated by the subject matter; by examining issues of controversy and conflict surrounding the work-society relationship, the course leads students to develop their critical skills in order to understand fully those issues. (Note: In discussions race, gender, and class, it is necessary to recognize that there are many differences within these groups as well as between them. When we talk about average differences between groups and make generalizations about differences between groups, it is important not to lose sight of the difference within each group.)

**Music [MUSIC] 105G: Music of the World. Prof. Frederick Stubbs. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 *and* Fridays 10:00 – 10:50. Class 1564.**

This course examines the power and function of music in pan-human context. Drawing on a wide variety of sounds and texts, students investigate the relationship between music and intellect, spirit, community, and environment. Special attention is given to how terms, concepts and values from various world musics illuminate and amplify our essential understanding of this human phenomenon. Please note: Students may receive credit either for this course or for MUSIC C110 (World Music), but not for both.

**Philosophy [PHIL] 109G: Moral Debate in Society. Prof. Theodore Locke. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 - 3:40. Class Number 2606.**

This course will study some contemporary problems of social ethics, particularly our obligations to others in need, abortion, human reproductive cloning, animal rights, affirmative action, pornography, and capital punishment, as well as ethical issues associated with the use of force: torture, war, and terrorism.



We will study varied positions on these issues, and the justifications that have been offered to support those positions. The course will develop the ability of each student to clearly articulate her position in each of these controversies, and to defend it persuasively, both in speaking, and particularly in writing.

**Philosophy [PHIL] 130G: Privacy. Prof. Brian Kiniry. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Mondays 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 13141.**

This course examines the nature of privacy from a philosophical as well as legal perspective. To further this examination, we will be addressing some of the following questions. What is privacy? Do we have a right to privacy? Are such rights ever properly overridden given considerations of the public good or safety and security concerns? While focusing primarily on informational privacy rights, we will also be considering such disparate issues as the privacy rights of children, the privacy rights of non-human animals, and the privacy rights of the dead.

**Psychology 131G Personal & Social Determinants of Health: Disparity, Equity, & Health Promotion. Prof. Daria Boeninger. Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:15 and Wednesdays 2:15 – 3:15. Class Number 3372.**

This course introduces a multi-disciplinary understanding of health and health-related interventions, with insights from the field of Health Psychology providing our dominant lens for viewing connections between the biological, psychological, and social influences on health. This course emphasizes consideration of disparities in health, building your understanding of how and why health disparities occur across the U.S. population, how to think about ethics related to both action and inaction in the face of health inequities, and what can be done to achieve health equity. We will explore questions such as, Why do Americans, on average, experience worse health and shorter lifespans than people in other developed countries? Why do some groups of Americans experience worse health and shorter lifespans than other groups? Is health and health care a “right”?—and does every American actually have the same ability to pursue health and wellness as their fellow citizens do? What can we as a society do to reduce health disparities and promote health for every person in our country? What can we as individuals do to make sure we experience the best physical and mental health we can?

**Religious Studies [RELSTY] 115G Religion, Politics, Sex, and Violence. Prof. Michael Motia. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:15 and Thursdays 1:00 - 1:50. Class Number 3051.**

This course covers three themes—religion and public life, violence and non-violence, sexes and sexualities. Students become familiar with a range of major religious thinkers and formulate their own constructive positions. This course may count toward completion of the Study of Religion Program.

## **SEMINAR 114G: Investigations Across the Curriculum**

**This course is offered in several sections and three different versions.**

### ***News Media and the War on Terror***

**Section 1: Prof. Meesh McCarthy, T and Th 12:30 – 1:45 and Tuesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class 1699.**

**Section 7: Staff. TTh 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 2752.**

**Section 14: Staff. TTh 11:00 – 12:15 and Tuesdays 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 3703.**

This course focuses on the ways in which news media frame events, using reporting on the 9/11/01 attacks and the "Global War on Terror" (GWOT) as key initial examples. As with other wars, the White House had to "sell" this to the public. The media played a pivotal role in the buying, selling, and rejecting of the GWOT "sales pitch".

To explore questions such as: How are news reports always somewhat distorted, but not always lies? If all representations by the news media are distorted, are some nevertheless "better" than others? In which contexts do government officials, journalists, and citizens unthinkingly frame news? we will explore news reports about 9/11/01 along with artistic and scholarly responses to them. We will then explore how other important events since 9/11/01 have been framed by the news media, artists, and scholars through interdisciplinary research.

### ***Reality and the Americas***

**Section 3: Prof. Meesh McCarthy. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:00 – 10:50 and Mondays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 2651.**

**Section 5: Prof. Meesh McCarthy. TTh 9:30 – 10:45 and Thursdays 8:00-9:15. Class Number 2658.**

This course is an opportunity to examine the real world as a scholar. First, we will explore new ways of viewing the reality of the past. We will then investigate how new technology is reshaping what is considered to be accurate American history, how social networking is reshaping what we consider to be real connections with others, and how infotainment, technology, and advertisement have reconstructed what we think people in the Americas should and actually do. We will use materials drawn from various disciplines (such as history, psychology, and media-communication studies) to develop our definitions of reality, fact, truth, fiction, fantasy, myth, virtual space, and identity that apply to our academic and other experiences.

### ***Court Cases***

**Section 4: Staff. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Tuesdays 2:00 – 2:50. Class Number 2653.**

**Section 9: Prof. Ian Drinkwater. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00-3:50. Class Number 3050.**

**Section 17: Prof. Ian Drinkwater. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 – 12:50 and Mondays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 4079.**

This First Year Seminar is about arguments, in particular legal and related arguments that are used in courtrooms. We will study real criminal, civil, and constitutional cases, as documented on film and in courtroom transcripts, and academic and news articles. Via these documents, you will observe the words and actions of individual jurors, judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

These cases represent both just and unjust outcomes. In some cases, the criminal evidence for guilt may be ambiguous. In some, the judicial system may be inherently biased because of a particular judge or lawyer, or because of the constraints of the appeals process or the ways the justice system is funded. And in other cases, the system seems to protect our rights well. Come judge for yourself.

**SEMINAR 120G Mind-Body Connections. Prof. Bryan Williams**

**Section 1: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00 - 2:50 and Wednesdays 3:00-3:50. Class Number 1700.**

**Section 2: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 – 1:50 and Fridays 12:00 - 12:50. Class Number 2652.**

**Section 3: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 and Mondays 10:00-10:50 Class Number 2659.**

How do the body and mind interact? We will investigate this question through observations of ourselves, through observations and interviews of others, and through the course's readings and library research. Along the way we will learn about how people deal with physical and emotional challenges and how some people seem more resilient while others may become more resilient. For assignments there will be journal entries, formal essays, and frequent presentations, often in groups. Meditation and/or physical exercise will be required as well. The exercises will be adaptable to short- or long-term physical limitations.

**SEMINAR 126G: Aging and Wisdom**

**Section 1: Staff. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50 Class Number 2736.**

**Section 2: Staff. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 – 12:50 and Mondays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 4091**

We will examine varied historical, cross-cultural, and literary views on aging and wisdom. Through a wide range of texts and genres, a visit to a nursing home, and an interview with an octogenarian, we will take an in-depth look at the way individuals, societies and families deal with and view the elderly, death, and dying. We will analyze the causes and effects of these attitudes and how they relate to social and political expectations, policies, and changes. **Enrollment by Placement.**

**Sociology [SOCIO] 110G: Insiders/Outsiders. Prof. Anna Beckwith**

**Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:15 and T 9:30 – 10:20 Course Number 9936.**

**Section 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15 and Thursdays 10:00 - 10:50 Course Number 9937**

What often makes it possible to justify and practice oppression is the division of groups of people into outsiders/insiders based on their gender, “race”/ethnicity, class, age, sexuality, religion, nationality, belief, ability, or others. Such “Us” vs. “Them” dualisms give oppressors the justification to organize social (economic, cultural, political) structures and interactions in such a way that the free development of their own creative powers comes at the expense of preventing others from developing the same in themselves. Central to what makes insider/outsider mentality and divisions possible is the deeper dualism of self vs. society. The central purpose of this course is to go beyond such an insider/outsider mentality and lifestyle by developing our sociological imaginations, a way of looking at the world and ourselves that helps us understand how our personal troubles and larger public issues have shaped and influenced one another, and can in turn shape and influence one another in non-oppressive ways. Using a variety of readings augmented by selected films, in this course we will explore how sociology can help us understand how society works itself out in our everyday lives, and how we can become better persons and help create better societies, thereby pursuing what a liberal arts education promises to do: to help individuals freely develop their creative powers and seek the same for others in the world. Student assignments will consist of engaged attendance and participation in discussions, shared reports and presentations, and a term paper developed in multiple drafts, cultivating students' critical sociological imaginations by exploring the link between their personal troubles and ever globalizing public issues.

**Sociology [SOCIO] 120G: Sociology of Popular Culture.**

**Section 1: Prof. Linda Ai-Yun Liu. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Mondays 10:00 – 10:50. Course Number 9938.**

**Section 2: Prof. Daniel Finn. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 – 8:50 and Wednesdays 9:00-9:50. Class Number 9939.**

**Section 3: Prof. Daniel Finn. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00-1:50 and Mondays 2:00-2:50. Course Number 9940.**

**Section 4: Prof. Jyoti Sinha. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Mondays 11:00 – 11:50. Course Number 9941.**

**Section 5: Prof. Jyoti Sinha. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 – 12:50 and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Course Number 9942.**

**Section 500: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:50. Prof. Karla Odenwald *For ISSP Students Only*. Course Number 10402.**

What is popular culture? How do mass media and popular culture help us to make sense of our world, identities, and relationships? Do we organize our lives around media or do media shape our lives? Do media technologies make us happier or better citizens in a democratic society? This course will address such questions by applying various theoretical lenses to artifacts and visual messages in media and popular culture, with a primary emphasis on developing a critical awareness of contemporary mass media (radio, film, photography, music, television, fashion, video games, the internet) and their impact on culture.

You will examine your own conceptions and consumption of media through (1) readings and group tasks that engage and challenge your perspective on our cultural landscape, (2) a service-learning project that integrates the local community with your understanding of course material, and (3) writing assignments that allow you to apply the theories and concepts you learn to your own analysis of popular culture. Access to a camera is required. **Note: Section 500 is reserved for ISSP program students.**

**Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies [WGS] 120G: Women and Men in Families. Prof. Lynne Benson**

**Section 1: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 – 8:50 and Mondays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 2833.**

**Section 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 9784.**

Has feminism destroyed the traditional family? Would marriages last longer if women and men shared family responsibilities equally? Does society still need to make major changes if we want both women's rights and stable families? Participants read, discuss, debate, and make up their own minds on these issues. We will also discuss how families deal with various crises, such as death, divorce and shifts in their economic status, as well as the impact of the COVID pandemic. This course may count toward the major and the minor in Women's Studies.