

Honors Current & Transfer Seminars, Fall 2021

Politics of Science Fiction

Class # 20408

Instructor: Casavant, Michele

TH, 03:00-03:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Science fiction is a lens through which students can critically engage their culture and the political forces that are structured within it. In this seminar, we watch a number of films, everything from Starship Troopers to Avatar, and discuss the ways in which each addresses political and social concerns. This course encourages students to become more analytically aware of the society and culture in which they live. It will examine different types of cultural and political theory, which will aid in their analysis. In addition, this course will help students understand how our American identities are dependent on many interconnecting forces, such as race, gender, class, histories, sexuality, and others.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This class would benefit any student, including students in engineering, the sciences, or the social sciences. Each of these academic areas have their own perspective on this topic and can take away their own unique experience. Indeed, the more interdisciplinary the discussion, the more sophisticated and interesting the class becomes.

The Moral Arc of History

Class # 26045

Instructor: Besson, Dave

F, 2:00-2:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Paraphrasing Abolitionist and Transcendentalist Theodore Parker, Martin Luther King said, in The Gospel Messenger: "The arc of the moral Universe is long, but it bends towards Justice". We'll consider this statement both historically and also as it applies to 2030, specifically considering, e.g., whether #MeToo and other contemporary social currents demonstrate forward progress, or if they are transient blips in moral progress.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students who have strong opinions about morality and social responsibility and are eager to exchange those ideas with their classmates.

Global Medicine

Class # 24079

Instructor: Rhine, Katie

TU, 02:30-03:20 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: The concept of global health refers to the ways transnational flows of people, ideas, technologies, and capital influence the emergence and spread of diseases across space and time. In this seminar, we will question how these transnational entanglements, social and economic inequalities, and (mis)understandings of "culture" shape the delivery of medical care and the experiences of suffering in diverse global contexts.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This course would benefit students across a range of majors, including anthropology, global and international studies, and students in pre-health career tracks.

History & Memory

Class # 26238

Instructor: MacGonagle, Elizabeth

W, 02:00-03:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: History and memory influence our identities and self-conceptions in ways that complicate and simplify our world. In this seminar, we will think about memory from various perspectives that include historical memory, public memory, collective memory, individual memory, sites of memory, and the role of memorials, monuments, and commemorations. Much of our discussion will focus on how we choose to remember and forget the past and what the implications of forgetting and remembrance are for history, politics, and culture in our global society.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This class is designed to appeal to a range of students who are interested in exploring how various disciplines, methodologies, and cultural contexts influence the ways in which meaning is made through history and memory.
