

Honors Seminars, Fall 2020

HNRS 177 Train-iPhone: Machine & Culture*

Class # 28757

Instructor: Wood, Nathaniel

MW, 12:30-01:45 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: How does the introduction of new machines affect the way we understand ourselves, as well as our conceptions of space and time? Additionally, how can the historical study of this process of adaptation help us understand our current relationship with technology? This course will investigate humans' relationship with technology over the past two centuries, paying particular attention to the ways that machines such as locomotives, artificial lighting, telephones, telegraphs, watches, bicycles, automobiles, and airplanes have been constrained by historical precedent while challenging and altering our attitudes toward spatiality and temporality.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: All Honors students welcome! By studying these and other examples from the past, students will develop and practice skills that will help them in future college courses.

*This section is a 3-credit hour version of the 1-credit hour HNRS 190 seminar. Students who successfully complete HNRS 177 will receive credit for KU Core Goal 1.1 (critical thinking). This section is an excellent fit for students who would like a more in-depth seminar experience as part of their first semester.

A Just Machine

Class # 20641

Instructor: Alexander, Perry

TU, 04:00-04:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: "A Just Machine to make big decisions, programmed by fellas' with compassion and vision, what a beautiful world it will be." Prophetic words from Donald Fagen of Steely Dan fame in 1982 describing a future, perfect world. In our tutorial we will look at how David Hilbert's challenge problems, Goedel's proof, and Turing's mathematical machine contributed to the search for A Just Machine that could flawlessly solve all our hardest problems. We will see their failures, their successes, and how both contributed equally to the industrialization of information. We will examine how language and computing are intimately tied in the work of Chomsky and the work of Polish and British codebreakers during a world war. No prior computing or mathematical experience required.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone interested in information and the philosophy of computing. CS, mathematics, and philosophy students would particularly benefit, but anyone interested in the humanities or the sciences would enjoy the material.

COVID-19: Economic Impact & Policies (Online Course)

Class # 22834

Instructor: Asiedu, Elizabeth

F, 01:00-02:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: As of March 29, 2019, 199 countries and territories around the world have been affected by the coronavirus disease COVID-19, with over 684,000 cases and 32,000 deaths worldwide. However, there is significant variation inter- and intra-nationally with respect to the spread of disease, public health response, and the economic impact of the pandemic. This class will examine the impact of COVID-19 in selected countries and the policies adopted by the countries to mitigate the adverse effect of COVID-19 on the economy.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone who is interested in the economic impact of this issue at the global, national, state, and community level.

Winning College: Who Succeeds

Class # 22542

Instructor: Baker, Regan

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

Seminar Description: This course examines how US institutions and society define success in college – weighing the academic, social, and post-graduation pressure students have – and examining what makes students more likely to be academically successful (considering issues such as family income, standardized test scores, ethnicity, or co-curricular activities). The class will use personal experiences weighed against research on retention indicators, student development theories, and other metrics used to determine institutional success to decide what it means for students individually and institutionally to be successful in college.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students interested in social sciences, education, or in thoughtfully reflecting on how they intend to craft their own higher education experience can find value in the course.

Pandemics of Inequality (Online Course)

Class # 22543

Instructor: Batza, Catherine

W, 10:00-10:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This class explores the way that global pandemics prey upon and exacerbate structural inequalities like gender inequality, economic disparity, racism, and others.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone who is interested in the impact of these pandemics at the global, national, state, and community level.

The Moral Arc of History

Class # 22755

Instructor: Besson, David

M, 09:00-09:50 AM (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.

History of Genome Hacking

Class # 26941

Instructor: Blumenstiel, Justin

W, 11:00-11:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: In the era of CRISPR, humans have developed the ability to reprogram the source code of life in the form of genome engineering. To achieve this, humans have exploited a range of tools provided by bacteria and viruses. These tools are possible because viruses and bacteria have evolved their own strategies of genome hacking and humans can now use them for their own purposes. This seminar will provide a survey of

strategies, evolved over billions of years that viruses, transposable elements and bacteria use to manipulate DNA. It will further outline how humans have used these tools to enable genetic engineering. Students participating will learn fundamental principles of host-parasite conflict, the enzymatic manipulation of DNA sequences and methods of genetic engineering with restriction enzymes, RNAi and CRISPR.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students who are curious about genetics, evolution, and genetic engineering.

Microbes Making Food

Class # 22850

Instructor: Burgin, Amy

TH, 03:00-4:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Take a second to list your favorite foods. Did you think of cheese, bread, yogurt, pickles, chocolate, mushrooms or coffee? Every time you eat these delicacies, you can thank a microbe for its part in making the food. This course establishes a basic understanding of microbiology, a history of food culturing and preservation, and the specific microbiology of some of our favorite foods. And yes, of course, we will eat.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: People who like to eat, are interested in making their own food, and/or are curious about the emerging field of microbiomes (microbes that inhabit and alter specific environments, including our bodies and our food).

Drama in Your EarPod: Developing a Scripted Podcast

Class # 26088

Instructor: Canady, Darren

W, 10:00-11:15 AM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Today's popular scripted podcasts – Limetown, Homecoming, The Amelia Project – are hooking listeners with their inventive storytelling, accessibility, and uniquely vivid characters and situations. But what does it take to bring the worlds of these pieces to life in our ears? And why are they so popular? In this Freshman Honors Course, we'll break down the development methods of audio drama podcasts and trace their roots back to classic radio dramas to get a sense of how the medium has evolved and what stories and characters are the most effective. Students can expect to listen and break down a series of podcasts (including the ones listed above) as well as develop their own pilot episode of an original podcast of their own design.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Any honors student who is interested in how popular media is developed.

Presidential Debates (Online Course)

Class # 20654

Instructor: Carlin, Diana

M, 02:30-03:45 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: In 2020 the US will once again have general election presidential debates. This course looks at the history of political debates in the US and their expansion into other countries. Students will watch and evaluate the 2020 presidential debates and will serve as facilitators for focus groups after at least one of the debates. The course reviews research on political debates and develops a group research project on the 2020 debates.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This course is of interest to political science, communication studies, and history students as well as any student who wants to be better prepared to vote in the 2020 election.

Women in International Conflict & Terrorism

Class # 26913

Instructor: Carter, Brittnee

W, 10:00-10:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This seminar focuses on the many roles that women play in the origins and escalation of domestic political violence, war, and terrorism and insurgency. It will include an exploration into the roles women serve in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in domestic and international conflict. This course will primarily explore the intersection of gender, broadly speaking, and political violence and will examine gendered explanations of social, political, and economic contexts that generate conditions for the sexual division of labor surrounding political conflict processes. It will connect these social contexts to outcomes of political violence and conflict that utilize the involvement of women in either active or passive roles. Students in the seminar will be introduced to the narrative and empirical academic literature on the topic of gender and political violence/state conflict of the disciplines of political science, sociology, criminology, and anthropology.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: The students who would benefit most from the course would be anyone interested in Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Peace and Conflict Studies, and African and Middle East Studies, and Global International Studies.

A Cultural Analysis of College (Online Course)

Class # 18793

Instructor: Chappell, Benjamin

TU, 01:00-01:50 PM (15 **Zoom** sessions)

Seminar Description: "Higher education" is a prominent feature of American life, but do we know why? This engaging, virtual course samples from fields such as history, anthropology, cultural studies, and life writing to unpack the social and cultural realities of campus life today. Taking up KU as a topic of study, not only a place in which to do it, we will identify some of the unspoken assumptions and distinctive practices that go on at a public, predominantly white, research university, and seek to understand this specific cultural site in its historical and social contexts. We will develop our capacities to analyze dynamics of social power and identity in education, and recognize barriers to access and inclusion. Drawing on the relatively young interdisciplinary field of Critical University Studies, we will discuss how well "college" lives up to its own ideals, and what needs to happen to make universities better.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: First-generation and underrepresented college students, those interested in critical social and cultural study, social reformers, those seeking an examined life.

Legacy, Leadership, Collections

Class # 21173

Instructor: Coleman, Audrey*

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

Seminar Description: Congressional Archives, like that of US Senator Bob Dole housed at the Dole Institute of Politics, are a window into the process of governing and a mirror reflecting American politics, policy, and culture. We'll use the Dole Archives and Dole Institute programming, other area cultural heritage collections, and intergenerational conversation to explore the 20th century and its connections to today. Student work with

culminate in a research survey project on a topic of their choice based on Dole Archives collections and other resources.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This seminar will be of interest to a wide variety of students, especially students interested in history and politics as well as American Studies, collections, leadership, and the intersection of public policy with the students' anticipated field of study.

* Instructor is an Honors Program Graduate, who continues to enthusiastically support the program!

Art Theft & Cultural Patrimony

Class # 26977

Instructor: Crawford-Parker, Sarah

W, 02:00-02:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Art theft as a consequence of exploration, colonization, and warfare has a long history in Europe (as well as other parts of the world) and has resulted in myriad ethical dilemmas for museums today. This course will examine how certain objects came to be in museums and contemporary debates for their return. We will trace the development of international conventions for the protection of works of art and consider how these conventions have been applied in different historical moments, for example, the theft of objects during the colonization of Africa and during the Nazi rise to power in World War II. Throughout our conversations, we will consider how works of art shape personal and collective identities, as well as the structures of power that influence where objects reside, how they are exhibited, and for what purpose.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Any student interested in international issues and with a desire to expand their global understanding.

Contract Bridge in a Changing Society

Class # 22196

Instructor: Donovan, Brian

M, 02:00-02:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: In *The Theory of Gambling and Statistical Logic*, Richard Epstein notes that “Contract Bridge is likely the most challenging game extant; it is certainly the most obsessive for its ranks of zealous followers” (1995, pg. 252). This seminar examines the card game contract bridge as a window onto different dimensions in history, society, and leisure. We will learn the fundamentals of bridge as it is played in clubs and tournaments across the world. Seminar participants will get hands-on experience playing contract bridge while they study the social location of the game: the historical rise and fall of bridge as a popular leisure activity in the US and abroad, the role of cultural capital and forms of social stratification imbedded in the game, and the intersections among rationality, emotion, and communication intrinsic to contract bridge. Student Evaluation: participation, weekly short quizzes, and a final research paper.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Individuals who enjoy games (card games, tabletop games, and puzzles); learners who want to sharpen their critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; people who enjoy friendly competition, teamwork, and collective problem-solving; students with an interest in the social history of leisure activities.

Intro to Medical Innovation

Class # 25463

Instructor: Friis, Elizabeth

M, 05:00-05:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: In this seminar, we will explore the basic concepts a technology entrepreneur should follow to increase probability of success in designing and developing medical products. Guest speakers from the medical device industry will also be invited to talk about how they worked to make their ideas into real products that help patients.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students interested in making a difference in patients' lives through development of new technology would benefit from this seminar.

#StickToSports: Politics & Sport

Class # 21710

Instructor: Gomez Montoya, Mauricio

TU, 11:00-11:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This class will be a critical analysis on the impact of sports in society, particularly viewing sports as a political venue. Through dialogue, the class will analyze themes such as race, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, among other political identities, through the lens of sport. The class is titled #StickToSports: Politics & Sport, in honor of the infamous hashtag telling athletes to be silent on their political opinions and simply play to entertain.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students with an interest in social justice issues. The class will critically analyze themes related to social identity, power, privilege and oppression. Students do not need to be sports fans, or have a deep knowledge of sports to participate in this class.

Witchcraft (Online Course)

Class # 21629

Instructor: Gullickson, Sean

W, 01:00-01:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Witchcraft is everywhere today; in our favorite TV shows (Game of Thrones), movies (The Blair Witch Project), books (Harry Potter) and even Broadway musicals (Wicked). Nearly half a million Americans are practicing Wiccans, a faith inextricably tied to the term "witchcraft." But where did witchcraft come from, and how did we end up here? This interdisciplinary course will explore the origins and development of witchcraft in the West from ancient civilizations to the 21st century. We will examine the social and cultural power structures at play, the complex nature of historical witch hunts and institutions like the Spanish Inquisition, the intersection of magic and science during the Enlightenment, and the transformation of the witch from a feared figure to a romanticized stereotype to a symbol of feminism. We will seek to understand not only witchcraft, but ultimately what it can reveal about ourselves and the cultures in which we live.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: All Honors students welcome! Students of all majors and academic interests will benefit from the opportunity to make productive connections between a variety of academic approaches in their investigation of a single recurring historical phenomenon.

Art on Campus

Class # 22535

Instructor: Hardy, Saralyn; Gibson, Kelly

TU, 03:00-04:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This course will introduce students to public art on the University of Kansas's campuses. Students will actively engage in KU's Lawrence campus landscape, visit outdoor sculptures and explore works of

art visible to students, faculty and the public. Themes that will be explored in class include perceptions of public space and individual and communal interaction; campus conversations around current social topics, policies, the art and artists who shape public space; and the significant role of art on campus.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: All are welcome. The course will serve students interested in History of Art, Visual Art, Architecture, Dance, Engineering, Public Administration, and Museum Studies.

Humor from Margins French Literature

Class # 18820

Instructor: Hayes, Bruce

TU, 02:30-03:45 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: As social media constantly reminds us, humor can be divisive and offensive. Debates surrounding comedy and humor point to underlying cultural assumptions and values. Using modern theories on humor to help guide our discussions, this seminar will use French humor and comedy as a case study, from the Middle Ages to the present. This will enable participants to compare their own values and cultural assumptions with those from another country and from different historical periods. Questions we will examine include the following: What is it about humor that unsettles and disturbs, troubles and problematizes (or pokes fun at) the status quo? What is it about humor that can leave people feeling uncomfortable? What about efforts to censor comedy? These and other questions will inform our discussions throughout the seminar.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Humor is a topical question that will interest a wide range of students, students who already engage in current debates about what is funny and what is offensive. This seminar will help students to challenge their value and cultural assumptions when they encounter comic literature from a different country and from different time periods. This seminar would be an opportunity to bridge the gap between pop culture, which our students are well versed in, and the historical exploration of a different culture through the medium of humor and comedy.

Photo Culture: How Images Shape Our World

Class # 22833

Instructor: Hossler, Tim

W, 12:30-01:45 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Through readings, discussions, chats with guests, image analyzation, and simple photo making assignments, we will look at the role images play in society and culture. Our course will begin with reading 'On Photography', the classic collection of essays by cultural critic Susan Sontag and continue through examining the ubiquitous world of digital photography.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This course is open to everyone. As one of the required text books states: "Photography changes everything, it changes what we want, what we see, who we are, what we do, where we go, and what we remember." This course is not about becoming a photographer, it is about how photographs affect all of us.

The Chemist's War – Chemical Weapons in WWI

Class # 18805

Instructor: Jackson, Timothy

M, 03:00-04:30 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Although chemical compounds have seen use as weapons for thousands of years, World War I (WWI) marked the first use of modern scientific principles to develop and employ chemical weapons, with devastating results. In this seminar, we will discuss the chemistry, and the chemists, that contributed to “The Chemist’s War”. Through discussions and assigned readings this course will examine the development and use of chemical weapons in WWI, including consideration of the conditions that led to the use of these banned weapons. The course will also explore the physiological basis for chemical weapon’s mode of action.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: from STEM fields (particularly chemistry, chemical engineering, and biochemistry). Students interested in the history of the 20th century would also benefit from this course.

Who is a Refugee? (Online Course)

Class # 26924

Instructor: Janzen, Marike

F, 11:00-11:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there are currently 68.5 million people in the world who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence or economic crises. In this seminar, we will examine the multiple causes, consequences, and implications of this record high number of displaced persons. Our investigation will center on multiple facets of the question: Who is a refugee? That is, who are the people we call refugees? Where do they come from? What is the legal definition of the category of “refugee,” and why does it matter? How do we, and how should we, depict the experiences of refugees when leaders around the world are working to make it more difficult, and dangerous, for people to cross national borders?

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students who would benefit from this course include those interested in political science, history, GIST, European Studies, sociology, foreign language and literature, anthropology. I think, though, that students in any field would benefit from the course: refugee movement will continue to be a central issue of the coming decades and will require people in all areas to be aware of and involved in it.

Horror Film & Greek Tragedy

Class # 26926

Instructor: Jendza, Craig

F, 02:00-02:50 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Over the semester, we will study, interpret, and analyze ancient Greek tragedies in relation to modern horror films. We’ll use a number of approaches: historical contexts, philosophical theories about horror and tragedy, and literary theories of genre. Do horror movies have to have a monster? Can tragedies have a happy ending? Why did the Korean filmmaker Park Chan-Wook deliberately model Oldboy (2003) on Sophocles’ Oedipus Rex? Why do Greek tragedies include moments of horror, such as Heracles’ gruesome murder of his family in Euripides’ Heracles? What motions do horror and tragedy produce in the audience, and how do they do so?

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone broadly interested in film, literature, history, and philosophy.

Life in China: Beyond Headlines (Online Course)

Class # 20655

Instructor: Kennedy, John

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

Seminar Description: China, as a nation, has gone through rapid social and economic changes over the last 30 years. Although the news headlines in North America discuss China and the global economy, China's national politics and China trade, little attention is paid to the daily life of average Chinese citizens especially young people. In this class, we examine everyday life in China including K-12 education and college, entertainment and social media, dating, love and marriage, career choices, housing, health care and family relations. The goal is to see identify the similarities and differences between growing up in China and the United States as well as a greater understanding of the people and society behind the headlines.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students who are interested in international and global studies, comparative politics as well as journalism and communications studies will benefit from this course.

So You Want to be a Writer?

Class # 18775

Instructor: Klayder, Mary

W, 04:30-05:20 PM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: So You Want to be a Writer, Huh? will be celebrating its 20th anniversary next fall. The seminar introduces students to three creative writing genres - fiction, poetry, and nonfiction - as well as to the creative writing community at KU and in Lawrence. Students will read and write in all three genres, engage in workshops, and complete a full portfolio by the end of the semester. The course will end with a celebratory reading involving current students and alums from the past twenty years.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone who has an interest in reading or writing. The students do not need to be English majors but they should want to explore different forms of creative writing.

Principals Computer Technology in Everyday Life

Class # 26925

Instructor: Kulkarni, Prasad

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

Seminar Description: Introduce students to the principles of computing technologies seen and used in everyday life and their societal impact. Students with minimal technical background will be given a hands-on education in the basics of computer technology and cybersecurity issues in common daily usage. Some example modules in this class may include, history of computing, how computer hardware/software work, networking and Internet basics, using the Internet, wireless networks, web commerce technologies, cloud computing and data centers, blockchain and digital currencies, security and privacy technologies, etc. Minimal technical background assumed.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students that use computers, Internet, mobile devices, smart devices, and related technologies on a daily basis or hear about computing terms in discussions, interactions, and media, and would like to understand a more about how these things work. Students will understand cybersecurity and privacy issues of using computing technologies.

Energy Policy: Be the Change

Class # 20657

Instructor: Liu, Lin

M, 08:15-09:30 AM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Currently, coal, oil, and natural gas together account for the majority of global energy consumption. Global energy demand is expected to grow in the coming decades, with fossil fuels remaining the primary source. Rising world energy consumption creates political and social tensions. For example, a large fraction of current geopolitical tensions arises from issues originating in energy supply and consumption. In the meanwhile, much emphasis has been placed on climate change and environmental protection. Any change in the energy policy will inevitably ripple out with the physical world. Some of those ripple effects are enormously positive, others are not. Through this seminar, we will develop a better understanding of how the energy policy changes given new technological progress, economic growth and development along with the rising energy demand coming from developing countries.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: The students who have a passion for science & engineering, those who are highly motivated by studies in energy supply, policy-making, renewable resource assessments, technology development, market infrastructure, climate & environmental aspects of energy production, utilization, and transit, among others. The students who are interested in international treaties, incentives to investment, and taxation and other public policy techniques will also benefit from understanding the scientific and technological measures used to produce an energy policy.

The Politics of Public Health

Class # 22541

Instructor: Miller, Patrick

TH, 11:00-12:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Health is one of society's most basic desires, but it is also one of our most commodified and politicized goods. This seminar focuses on the political aspects of public health, and understands "politics" to include social, economic, and policy controversies that surround the question of what constitutes a healthy society and how we should be achieve it. Questions that will be addressed include the following: How does the American health care system work and what government policies have created it? What role do government, the private sector, and social movements play in constructing and responding to public health crises such as the Spanish Flu, HIV/AIDS, obesity, or COVID-19? What is the role of citizens in public health as it relates to their habits, social and political identities, and political perceptions (e.g., the anti-vaccine movement, social responsibility)?

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone who is interested politics of this issue at the global, national, state, and community level, including content where possible on current public health controversies in Kansas broadly, in Lawrence, and on the KU campus.

Innovation in Design Thinking

Class # 18821

Instructor: Pittman, Jason; Allen, Thom

M, 06:00-07:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This unique seminar and hands on lab explores critical design thinking and targets relevant problems within the KU community. How do we think about public space and what do our own experiences tells us by guiding and informing how we interact with campus life? Through research, prototyping, and design, students will investigate real issues and create campus interventions to explore ways of making a better KU community. Through guest lectures, campus explorations, and design investigations, students will be introduced to the mission of KU by building healthy communities and making discoveries that change the world. While the interventions will be small, these discoveries will set up larger provocations that dare students to use their energy, creativity and passion to dream big both locally and globally.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students interested in exploring problem solving through design pedagogy, those wanting to serve the public through creating better public space, and those invested in building healthy communities would benefit from this class offering.

Culture Out of Bounds (Online Course)

Class # 22822

Instructor: Rosenthal, Benjamin

M, 05:30-06:45 PM (10 **Zoom** sessions)

Seminar Description: This engaging, virtual seminar looks at a myriad of ways in which artists and other cultural producers are working outside or in conflict with larger "institutions" as a way to reframe how contemporary art functions in society. The course will involve both reading and discussion and may involve some field-trips. Some topics that will be explored will be the history and theory of museums/cultural spaces, building community, utopian communities/communes, activism, and artwork as a form of knowledge production.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This seminar would be great for anybody interested in how cultural producers function, and how culture influences our larger understanding of who we are as people/society. Anyone who is curious about the world and wants to explore what its structures means as a class community would be welcome and wanted regardless of major or department affiliation.

Newton's Secret Club

Class # 29474

Instructor: Stanislavova, Milena

M, 03:00-04:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: During his "year of wonders", the time spent away from Cambridge during the Great Plague of London 355 years ago, Isaac Newton started developing the new mathematical understanding of the universe. Newton was in his early twenties when he discovered calculus. In this class, you will discover amazing physical phenomena and understand them better using mathematics. From the infinity principle and the mysteries of curves, to the rules of motion and change, every field where there is evolution in time and space can be described by differential equations. More importantly, their power can be used to forecast the future and to improve our lives.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students with interests in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Economics as well as History, Philosophy and Journalism.

Museums and Markets

Class # 26001

Instructor: Straughn, Celka

F, 11:00-11:50 AM (15 class sessions)

Seminar Description: Primarily non-profit institutions, museums partake in the marketplace of ideas as producers and influencers of meaning making. Yet how have and do museums acquire collections? Who and what do these collections serve? As non-profits, how are museums supported financially? This seminar will examine a variety of questions about museums and their relation to markets and capitalism in the United States and globally. We will consider historical aspects and more contemporary studies of art museums as well as natural history, science, history and other types of museums. Class sessions will also include site visits to campus and other local institutions.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students contemplating any major(s) and/or minor(s) are welcome to participate in this course. While the seminar introduces content and methods drawn from the humanities and humanistic social sciences, the course is not intended to be disciplinary specific, and is open to a number of approaches and perspectives. This course overlaps with a number of potential areas of study, including museum studies, art history, visual art, business, anthropology, history, sociology, gender studies, and global and international studies.

The History of Communication

Class # 21242

Instructor: Tell, Dave

TU, 01:00-02:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This seminar will follow the major developments in the history of the idea of communication. Beginning in ancient Greece and ending in the twentieth century, the course features four primary ways that people have thought about communication. Less about technologies and more about their underlying ideas, the course will prepare students to critically engage the media-saturated environment of the twenty-first century.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: STEM majors and humanists from across the college.

Exploring Humanity in African Theatre

Class # 18803

Instructor: Ukpokodu, Peter

M, 09:00-10:15 AM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This seminar leads students to critically analyze and discuss shared human culture from an African reader's theatre perspective. The course involves two stages. First, students are given roles to read aloud in a chosen play, communicating the emotional and intellectual meaning of the dialogue. The second stage involves a critical, written analysis and discussion of the human condition and issue(s) raised in the play. Students are thus engaged emotionally and intellectually. An African reader's theatre suits the affirmation of our common human culture because of Africa's "triple heritage"--Western/Christian, Arabic/Islamic, Indigenous.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Because the seminar proposes to examine our human interconnectedness, the class would benefit all students but mostly those who are interested in global affairs and study abroad. Students interested in the arts, humanities, and social sciences would greatly benefit from it. This may also help students who are still conquering the fear of expressing themselves in a group or public setting.

Inclusive Cities

Class # 26900

Instructor: Vakil, Nilou

TU, 02:30-03:45 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This hands on, practice-based seminar will explore inclusivity in our day to day, built environment. What are the qualities that makes our cities, buildings, spaces and environments inclusive for all users regardless of socioeconomics, abilities, background or race? What are the spaces in the cities that encourage interaction and community participation? This honors seminar will take the students out of the classrooms and into the built environment in various location for this exploration.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This seminar belongs to all and students with interest in architecture, urban design and interior architecture.

Case Study: The People v. O.J.

Class # 22544

Instructor: Valdez, Suzanne

TU, 04:00-05:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This seminar course will provide an in depth review and discussion of the prosecution of O.J. Simpson for the murder of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, which took place in Los Angeles, CA in the 1990s. This case study, referred to by the press at that time, as the "Trial of the Century" highlights many facets of the law, and will include coverage of race relations, domestic violence, the presentation of scientific evidence, media coverage of judicial proceedings, police misconduct, and jury nullification. To date this trial has remained a curious part of American pop culture and has been the subject of numerous books, movies, and other media coverage. Along with O.J. Simpson, a Heisman Trophy winner and NFL phenomenon, other important figures such as Johnny Cochran, Bob Shapiro, Lance Ito, Marcia Clark and even the Kardashians, will appear prominently in the presentation of this course.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Any student who is pre-law, interested in law school, or interested in pop culture.

Mathematics and Climate (Online Course)

Class # 26928

Instructor: Van Vleck, Erik

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

Seminar Description: The focus of this engaging, and virtual seminar is on advances in computational mathematics and their application to understanding climate dynamics. The seminar will provide an introduction to the computational mathematics package matlab, high performance computing, and tools for numerical detection of bifurcation phenomena in which there is a major change in the state of the system. We will also introduce simple models of ocean and atmospheric dynamics and then focus on how computational mathematics tools can assist in the understanding of these models. Students in this seminar will receive an introduction to web publishing software and will use this as a medium to produce their final projects.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Students with interests in Mathematics, Atmospheric Science, Science, Engineering, Business or Economics.

Sex & Power

Class # 20697

Instructor: Vanderhurst, Stacey

TU, 04:00-05:15 PM (10 class sessions)

Seminar Description: This seminar will investigate the politics of sex – what makes sex good or bad and who gets to decide? How have these ideas changed over time, and what are people doing to change them today? To answer these questions, we will look at historical artifacts, popular culture, art, social media, and public policy. We will pay special attention to how these questions are playing out on college campuses in the United States, including class sessions with different organizations across KU. Students will develop mini-research projects based on this work, addressing topics such as identity, pleasure, courtship, consent, monogamy, pride and empowerment.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: This seminar would be relevant to anyone curious about how gender and sexuality shape our social world, especially those with interests in law, medicine, education, social work, and campus life. Qualitative research and analytical skills will also be useful to students interested in social science and humanities majors.

Is the American Dream Available to Everyone? (Online Course)

Class # 29568

Instructor: Jo Lugovskyy

TH, 03:00-04:15 PM (10 **Zoom** sessions)

Seminar Description: In this fully online course, students will learn the basic structure of the American economy and how to measure its most significant factors. Using this information, students will analyze the socioeconomic disparities of America's most vulnerable factions including women, racial and ethnic minorities, religious groups, and the LGBTQIA+ community, amongst others. Students will investigate the policies and procedures that affect economic discrimination, for better or for worse, and postulate a path forward.

Who would most benefit from this seminar: Anyone who is interested in learning more about the U.S. economy and the effects on the marginalized groups within it.
