

HNRS 190: Honors First-Year Seminars

Fall 2022 (Updated July 19, 2022)

CONTRACT BRIDGE IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

19539

Brian Donovan

M 1 - 1:50 p.m. (15 sessions)

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 bridge (or “contract bridge” as it is sometimes known) 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 embedded in the game, and the intersections among rationality, emotion, and communication intrinsic to competitive bridge.

Who should consider this seminar? This class will appeal to students who enjoy challenging puzzles and games, as well as those who are drawn to teamwork and competition. It will also engage students who have an interest in sociology and history.

HUMOR FROM THE MARGINS IN FRENCH LITERATURE

18469

Bruce Hayes

M 3 - 4:15 p.m. (10 sessions)

As recent examples such as Dave Chappelle’s Netflix special “The Closer” illustrate, humor can be divisive and offensive. Debates surrounding comedy and humor point to underlying cultural assumptions and values. Using theories on humor to help guide our discussions, this seminar will take a deep dive into French humor and comedy from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. This will allow students to compare their own values and cultural assumptions with those from another country and from different historical periods. An important question we will examine is the following: What is it about humor that rankles and disturbs, troubles and problematizes (or pokes fun at) the status quo? What is it about humor that can leave people feeling uncomfortable? These and other questions will inform our discussions throughout the seminar.

Who should consider this seminar? Humor is a topic that will interest a wide range of students, who already engage in debates about what is funny. 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 a great chance to bridge the gap between pop culture, which students are well versed in, and the historical exploration of a different culture through the medium of humor and comedy.

CHINA FROM THE BOTTOM UP: LIFE IN CHINA**18481****John Kennedy****M 3 - 3:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

This course is designed to introduce honor students to China and how to evaluate social and cultural changes in countries from the bottom up. This means learning about how people, especially young people (college-aged) live, from their relations with family and friends to schools, health care, and entertainment.

Who should consider this seminar? This seminar would be of interest to undergraduates in any field who are interested in other countries and cultures.

WOMEN IN THE CHESS WORLD AND BEYOND**17051****Kyle Camarda****M 11 - 11:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

This seminar will explore the reasons why so few women take part in many fields, especially math, science, engineering, and professional chess. Readings will help frame a discussion of the causes of this imbalance, and how structural changes in these fields might be able to address this issue and create more opportunities for women to realize their full potential.

Who should consider this seminar? This seminar would be appropriate for any honors student interested in the topic. Dr. Camarda's expertise as an advisor is tilted toward engineering students, but he can direct non-engineering students to other faculty (some of whom will be guest lecturers in the course) to help them get discipline-specific support they might need.

INCLUSIVE CITIES**22916****Nilou Vakil****M 2 - 3:15 p.m. (10 sessions)**

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 socioeconomic, abilities, background, or race? What are the spaces in cities that encourage interaction and community participation? This honors seminar will take students out of the classrooms and into the built environment of various locations for this exploration.

Who should consider this seminar? Everyone regardless of their background will benefit from this course.

**NUCLEAR CHEMISTRY IN THE MODERN SOCIETY:
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY****26099****Misha Barybin****M 3 - 3:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Think about stereotypical public perceptions of the word “chemical” and the word “nuclear.” Have these terms slipped into the “dirty word” lexicon of our society? Does combining the two “evils” (i.e. “nuclear chemicals”) magnify the fear? In this seminar, we will examine the historic origins of chemo- and nuclear phobias with the initial goal of uncovering what fuels bad press and sensational headlines. While objectively acknowledging “The Bad and The Ugly,” we will try to reclaim “The Good” of both words. In addition to all the nerdy science behind nuclear chemistry, among the topics discussed will be “The Radium Girls,” residential radon and radon spas (mines), chemical and nuclear warfare, carbon dating, the future of nuclear energy, as well as fundamentals of modern diagnostic imaging and nuclear medicine. Students will debate geopolitical, socioeconomic, environmental, human-health, and other implications of nuclear chemistry.

Who should consider this seminar? Anyone is welcome, especially incoming honors freshmen contemplating a chemistry-related major or minor.

ENERGY POLICY: BE THE CHANGE**18483****Lin Liu****TU 1 - 2:15 p.m. (10 sessions)**

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 energy policy will inevitably ripple out across the physical world. Some of those ripple effects are enormously positive, while others are not. Through this seminar, we will develop a better understanding of how energy policy changes given new technological progress, economic growth, and development, along with the rising energy demand coming from developing countries.

Who should consider this seminar? Students of the honors program who would like to have early experiences with research and develop their critical thinking and communication skills.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION IN THE MODERN WORLD**24085****Yvonne Chen****TU 11 - 11:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

Mindfulness has entered into the American mainstream lexicon with its share of attention in media coverage. Headlines from “Meditation exercise helps students focus,” “Enjoy a party with yoga and color,” and “Everyone has time to meditate” underscore how much mindfulness practices have been integrated into our daily lives. Further, mindfulness-based practices have been touted as a modern-day panacea that prevents and reduces stress and depression as well as improves social and emotional wellbeing in children and adults. But what is meditation? Does it really work? How is “mindfulness” popularized in our society and in the mainstream media? This seminar will engage students in thoughtfully executed mindfulness activities to gain a first-hand experience, visit campus museums and libraries to explore artworks and subjects for learning, and conduct a college survival guide project for incoming freshmen so that they can support the next generation of Jayhawks.

Who should consider this seminar? Students from diverse backgrounds interested in developing a higher sense of self-awareness and compassion toward self and others would benefit the most from this offering.

POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH**19746****Patrick Miller****TU 11 - 12:15 a.m. (10 sessions)**

Health is one of our most basic desires and one of our most commodified goods. We race for cures, rally for affordable and accessible healthcare, debate the ethics of various treatments, and pass laws meant to keep our publics healthy. Health is both widely sought after and wildly controversial. It’s not even clear what we mean when we talk about “health” or what constitutes a “disease.” This seminar takes up several of these controversies: whose interests the health care system serves and who they should serve; whether we can share the benefits of good health more equitably across social class, race, and gender; the politics of defining what is and what isn’t a disease; reproductive and sexual politics; and conflicts surrounding group versus individual rights in public health initiatives. Along the way, we will cover topics like “Obamacare,” health inequalities, vaccination programs, obesity, health social movements, medicalization, and the COVID-19 crisis.

Who should consider this seminar? Any student with an interest in politics, policy, or health care.

AMERICAN WITCHES ON STAGE & SCREEN**27851****Jane Barnette****TU 1 - 2:15 p.m. (10 sessions)**

This course explores the place that American witches occupy in U.S. cultural history. We will explore several tropes that circulate about witches throughout popular culture, from notions of evil “she-devils” to “sex magic,” from teenage outcasts to queer icons. As we will see, the witch remains a powerful stereotype that both empowers and degrades those who are called and/or identify as witches. We will read and review plays, musicals, drag performance, social media, films, and television episodes, as well as commentary about them.

Who should consider this seminar? Students who want to explore gender, sexuality, and religious/spiritual beliefs, along with the ways that these identities and beliefs intersect with a subset of the history of the United States. In addition, students who are fans and/or creators of performance (in its many iterations) and design for the stage or screen will benefit from this class, as a micro-focused inquiry into how and why the specific character type of “the witch” is represented in American popular culture.

INNOVATION IN DESIGN THINKING**17064****Thom Allen****TU 4 - 5:15 p.m. (15 sessions)**

This unique seminar and hands-on lab employs critical design thinking to target relevant problems within the KU community. How do we think about public space and what do our own experiences tell 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 make a better KU community. Guest lectures, campus explorations, and design investigations will introduce students 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 should consider 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.

RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE**22937****Ani Kokobobo****W 2 - 2:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army has shaken the world, resulting in heroic resistance from Ukrainians on the ground, but also extraordinary damage to Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, not to mention thousands of wartime casualties and the displacement of millions of Ukrainians. The war has a long and complicated history — some of it dating back to the Ukrainian Euromaidan, and some of it dating back to the beginnings of the USSR and earlier. Envisioned as a semester-long “explainer” on the backstories of the war, this seminar is anchored around two novels (Vassily Grossman’s *Everything Flows* and Serhiy Zhadan’s *The Orphanage*) and segments of a historical study (Anne Applebaum’s *Red Famine: Stalin’s War on Ukraine*). In evaluating events closer to the present, we will read media articles and consider broader questions of democracy, authoritarianism, and the pivotal role of mass media in the conflict.

Who should consider this seminar? With the war perpetually on the news, students are exposed to extraordinary images of violence. Given disinformation funneled by Russian propaganda and the inevitable politicization of the war abroad, students seeking a toolkit of knowledge to think critically about the war and other current events should consider this seminar.

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND TERRORISM**22920****Brittnee Carter****W 10 - 10:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

This seminar focuses on the many roles that women play in the origins and escalation of domestic political violence, war, terrorism, and insurgency. It will include an exploration of 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 narrative and empirical academic literature on the topic of gender and political violence/state conflict within the disciplines of political science, sociology, criminology, and anthropology.

Who should consider this seminar? Students in the social sciences and humanities, especially those interested in political science, sociology, women, gender and sexuality studies, peace studies, and anthropology.

CULTURE OUT OF BOUNDS**22960****Benjamin Rosenthal****W 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. (10 sessions)**

“Culture Out of Bounds” opens up and challenges the very premise of institutions of culture and power through the work of cultural producers/artists and theorists. In a robust and engaging discussion-based course, students will work together to redefine and dismantle their expectations for what art and culture is, and how it engages the world(s) they know. Negotiating the fringe and puncturing the edges, this collective understanding/debate will result in a contribution to the honors symposium that will likely challenge its premise and format in provocative ways. Can we really distance ourselves from the “Institution” as we know it? We will see...

Who should consider this seminar? Students interested in pushing the boundaries between art, culture, science, politics, and technology! This course is a great catalyst for students from all majors to open up their field of view to new possibilities and explore their potential to reach outside of their disciplines.

STORYTELLING, MEMORY, AND RACE IN AMERICAN HISTORY**18936****Dave Tell****W 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. (10 sessions)**

This course explains the age-old question of power and memory: who gets to say what the past meant? The course is built on the basic conviction that public memorials are not about what happened in the past; they are about the people who hold power in the present. Why else would the American landscape — not to mention the KU campus — be dotted with memorials and monuments around every corner? If we are indeed living in a society afflicted by a “memorial mania,” as Erika Doss suggests, this mania is driven by a widely felt conviction that the past offers an unmatched source of political and cultural power. In this course, we will explore the connections between power, storytelling, and meaning through a number of different case studies. Each week, we will look at the controversies that have attended the memory of specific events: the American Revolution, the Civil War, Vietnam, WWI and WWII, etc. Students’ primary assignment will be to choose their own historical event and document the various ways in which it has been remembered.

Who should consider this seminar? Everyone benefits the most when the course is evenly split between students in the humanities and those in professional schools.

PHOTO CULTURE: HOW IMAGES SHAPE OUR WORLD**19942****Tim Hossler****W 12:30 - 1:20 p.m. (15 sessions)**

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 by examining the ubiquitous world of digital photography.

Who should consider 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.

**SOCIETY AT PLAY(STATION):
VIDEO GAMES, CULTURE AND STORYTELLING****19187****Sean Gullickson****W 1 - 1:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Some 226.6 million people in the United States regularly play video games. That's over two thirds of the population. Internationally, approximately 2.77 billion people are "gamers" of one sort or another. Video games themselves continue to be divisive, with detractors calling them escapism at best and promotion of violence and hate at worst, while advocates see video games as valuable cultural products and the next frontier in storytelling. This honors seminar will explore the many cultural facets of video games with the aim of better understanding their role in our society and what it means to be a "gamer." We will look at the cultural phenomena of Fortnite and "gamergate," explore open worlds and virtual sandboxes, read games as narratives and see how they measure up with more traditional media, discuss the ways in which games can both divide and unite us, and more.

Who should consider this seminar? It might help to have at least some minimal experience playing games, but this does not have to be excessive. Do you play Candy Crush on your phone? Great! Have a little cousin who is obsessed with Fortnite or Roblox and won't stop talking to you about it? Come on in! Do you regularly play video games, either by yourself or with friends online? Have a seat! Do you have a video game related tattoo? Me too! Anyone with interest in video games themselves, culture writ large, or storytelling would be welcome additions to the course.

CREATING CONNECTIONS**22544****Darren Canady & Emily Gullickson****W 2 - 3:15 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Students in this seminar will explore how the works of a variety of performing artists unlock unique, compelling, and varied methods of interrogating identity, gender, race, and culture. The course, offered through a special partnership between the Mellon Foundation and KU's Lied Center of Kansas, will introduce students to a diverse slate of guest artists while also engaging the ways performing arts and social justice intersect. Scheduled artists include the multidisciplinary artist, actor, dancer, writer, director, and hip-hop spoken word artist Paige Hernandez, and the renowned Rennie Harris, founder of RHP.m., which is the leading street dance theater company in the U.S. Students can also expect an immersion into the cultural life of KU and Lawrence, and explore how it helps shape those communities.

Who should consider this seminar? Students of all majors and academic interests will benefit from the opportunity of engaging with guest artists from a variety of backgrounds.

CLIMATE CHANGE LITERATURE**26039****Ali Brox****W 3 - 3:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Climate change presents a contemporary crisis that literature, broadly defined, increasingly grapples with — so much so that scholars now refer to “cli-fi,” or literature that examines the impacts of human-caused climate change during the Anthropocene. These impacts will be experienced disproportionately, and the social inequalities that will continue to ensue raise questions about justice and responsibility. In this class, we will examine fiction, nonfiction, and films that offer global perspectives on the climate crisis. We will address debates surrounding ethical human/nonhuman interactions and will reflect on the social and geopolitical conflicts that are heightened by climate change.

Who should consider this seminar? All honors students welcome. We all benefit from the opportunity to think critically about justice and climate change.

INTRO TO MEDICAL INNOVATION**22283****Lisa Friis****W 4 - 4:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Is your dream to make a difference in the lives of patients through a medical product you invent? In our seminar, we will discuss basic concepts of technology entrepreneurship in the medical device field that will help make that dream more likely to come true. Students will learn techniques to determine if their idea will meet the needs of patients, payers, and providers. We will also discuss the ethics of medical product development and learn from case studies. Finally, we will talk about how students should prepare to reach out to KU faculty about getting involved with research and learn some skills that will help make students more successful in working on research.

Who should consider this seminar? Students who are interested in future innovation and entrepreneurship in the medical device field would benefit most from this seminar. This could include students in any field, but particularly those in engineering, life sciences, or business.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER, HUH?**17026****Mary Klayder****W 4:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Students will engage in three genres of creative writing: fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. For each genre, a specialist in the area will introduce the genre, then students will write and participate in workshops with other members of the class and with an honors seminar assistant in each workshop group. They will also visit readings here on campus and in Lawrence and read professional samples of the genres they write. The hope is that they understand the relationship of the genres within creative writing and get the experience of practicing. The semester culminates in two student readings.

Who should consider this seminar? This has always been a pretty interdisciplinary group. Certainly students who wish to get started in creative writing as a major or minor, but also students in other disciplines who want to continue writing. Some of our strongest writers have been pre-med, engineering, pharmacy, and social welfare, to name a few. If they like to write and want to develop and understand craft as well as interact with other students with that interest, it is a great seminar for them.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?**22925****Marike Janzen****TH 11 - 11:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the end of 2021 there were 84 million people in the world who had 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 should consider this seminar? Students from multiple majors would benefit from discussions about the refugee experience, particularly those in political science, the arts, language and literature programs, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, and history. Ultimately, however, the phenomenon of forced migration touches on all aspects of human experience and students across all disciplines would benefit from engaging with the issue.

#STICKTOSPORTS: POLITICS & SPORT**19232****Mauricio Gómez Montoya****TH 3 - 3:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

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. This class will critically analyze themes related to social identity, power, privilege, and oppression.

Who should consider this seminar? Any student with an interest in social justice issues. Students do not need to be fans or have a deep knowledge of sports to participate.

INSIDE MUSEUMS**22509****Celka Straughn****F 11 - 11:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

Museums are considered trusted cultural institutions. Why, and perhaps why not? This course will look beyond surface displays and into the “cracks” to examine some of the ways museums function and for what purposes. We will also explore some of the ways those inside, outside, and at the thresholds of museums can open up museums as civic spaces for building community. Sessions will include site visits to campus museums and other cultural organizations.

Who should consider this seminar? Students who would like to get to know campus resources, particularly cultural resources, and engage in thinking about art and society through multiple perspectives. Students with a variety of interests and potential majors are welcome.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES FOR EVERYONE**22926****Prasad Kulkarni****F 4 - 4:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Computers are all around us, from refrigerators, microwaves, and cars to phones, watches, and tablets. This seminar will introduce students to the basics of computer technologies seen and used in everyday life and appliances, along with their security and societal impact. Example modules discussed in this class may include the history of computing, how computer hardware/software work, networking and Internet technologies, wireless networks, web commerce technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning, cloud computing and data centers, blockchain and digital currencies, and other contemporary topics.

Who should consider this seminar? Anyone who is curious about the basics of computing and wants to learn more about how that technology touches and impacts our daily lives. No prior programming, computing, or mathematical experience is expected.

**MOCKING LAUGHTER:
SATIRE IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME**

174042

Georgina White & Paul Touyz

W 2 - 3:15 p.m. (10 sessions)

Do you enjoy The Onion, South Park, SNL, The Daily Show, or any other media that uses humor to make serious points about the world around them? All of these satirical works have their origins in the literature of Ancient Greece and Rome. Join us as we read and analyze classic texts from the ancient world that stick it to the man by making fun of political injustice, gender roles, those in power, religious institutions, contemporary fashions, and cultural trends. We will employ the perspectives of ancient rhetorical theory, as well as contemporary theories of humor, to consider many questions. Can satire produce political change? Does satire challenge or reinforce cultural stereotypes? What is the relationship between parody, irony, and invective? Are there topics that should be off limits to mockery? Along the way, students will have the opportunity to produce their own satirical texts.

Who should consider this seminar? This course is open to anyone who is interested in thinking more about the relationship between art and society, the limits of free speech, the function of comedy, and the nature of humor. It will introduce key texts in the history of Western literature that continue to influence the work of satirists and comedians today. Also: They're very funny!

DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE

18512

Anne Patterson

TU 1 - 2:15 p.m. (10 sessions)

Through readings, simple drawings, and photo assignments, we will see the world anew, learning how to visualize what we see in our memories and our present. The course will begin with reading *Invisible Cities*, the classic collection of stories by Italo Calvino, as a way of seeing cities through a different lens, then continue by examining the ubiquitous world of drawing and digital photography. This honors seminar will take the students out of the classrooms and into the built environment of campus.

Who should consider this seminar? This course is open to everyone, especially those who feel creative, have imaginative minds but think that can't draw. No prior experience is needed!

**ON CAMPUS: HOW UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS
AND SPACES SHAPE THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE****19958****Areli Marina****TH 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. (10 sessions)**

The dedicated college campus is a distinctly American urban ensemble, inspired by European precursors and now imitated worldwide. Using KU's buildings and grounds as our laboratory and the discipline of architectural history as our lens, this seminar examines the form and functions of the college campus and its architecture. Our goal is to understand the ways in which buildings shapes university life and how official policy and unofficial practices shape our perceptions of that environment. How does KU's architecture support its educational mission? Can the form and arrangement of university spaces foment intellectual curiosity, nurture a shared identity, facilitate connections among its denizens? How does KU's physical form communicate its values? Our 10-week seminar will take us various places as we engage in discussion and analysis both in the classroom and at selected sites on campus, from Allen Fieldhouse to Spooner Hall.

Who should consider this seminar? This seminar is for all students who want to be more sophisticated users of our campus. We will visit campus sites, sketch, read, write, view films, make photographs, and engage in lively discussion, among other analytical and interpretative practices. All are welcome — the course was designed for the beginning student of art and architectural history and assumes no prior study of the subject

MOBY-DICK**19747****Laura Mielke****TH 1 - 1:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* (1851) is an outsized novel. It is long. It is (in)famous. It has inspired more cartoons and jokes than I can count. Oh, and there's a whale. In this seminar, we will spend fifteen weeks reading *Moby-Dick*, approaching it not only as a multifaceted work of literature but also as a cultural phenomenon. Students will learn about the novel's historical contexts, especially with regard to race and imperialism; watch film adaptations; visit the Spencer Research Library and Spencer Museum of Art; and write a mixture of creative and critical reflections. Consider this an opportunity for a literary deep dive.

Who should consider this seminar? Anyone who likes to read and talk about a good sea yarn. (All students welcome!)

MONSTERS 101**19740****Paul Scott****F 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (10 sessions)**

Monsters are part of the fabric of our lives. There is no culture, tribe, or society without its monsters. This class delves into the notion of monstrosity and what constitutes a monster, looking at imagined monsters (horror), fictionalized versions of human monsters (the serial killer and Mafia boss), supernatural monsters (zombies), and possible monsters (extraterrestrials) across a range of media (TV, movies, literature). Particular emphasis will be paid to the deep subversive potential of monsters to challenge the status quo and prevailing attitudes to gender, sexuality, and authority. As well, we'll discuss the differences and convergences to be found between different cultures. We will analyze some recent reconfigurations of monsters, such as rational zombies, sympathetic serial killers, and friendly aliens, and unpack their meanings. Another important factor will be the consideration of what is humanity, what defines humanness, and why monsters matter.

Who should consider this seminar? Anyone who is curious about looking at ordinary things, such as what we watch to unwind, with a critical eye. Anyone who wants to cultivate analytic skills that are transferrable to other topics and fields through approaching familiar material and genres, then assessing and reassessing them through a variety of perspectives including subversive content, intended audience, depictions of societal norms.

ART + SCIENCE AND THE QUANTUM RENAISSANCE**19748****Daniel Tapia Takaki****W 10-10:50 a.m. (15 sessions)**

This course will introduce students to interdisciplinary methods and approaches to leverage and develop knowledge in the arts and sciences. We will discuss how deeply fundamental questions have been formulated and shaped by various scientific ideas and revolutions, philosophical and artistic movements. We will examine concepts such as symmetry, perspective, light, forms, color, shapes, fundamental, aesthetic, space, time, dynamics and others from both the scientific and artistic perspective. Concepts such as originality and scientific and artistic rigor will also be discussed. Some emphasis will be put on the questions that emerge from the new quantum revolution such quantum entanglement. No prior knowledge of mathematics, physics, computing, philosophy or art required.

Who should consider this seminar? All students are welcome. This will course will serve students from the STEM fields, the art and humanities that are interested to explore interdisciplinary studies.

UNDERSTANDING DIS/ABILITY**28117****Ray Pence****F 1-1:50 p.m. (15 sessions)**

Organized around the 2022-23 KU Common Book *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, this seminar considers disability as a social construction, a lived experience, and a key part of cultural history in the US and transnationally. I invite students to participate in locating disability at the crossroads of American studies and disability studies. These are two of academia's most vital interdisciplinary projects, tied to social movements for equity and justice. Stories in *Disability Visibility* represent the great diversity of disability communities, speaking eloquently and passionately of the need for change in how we think about disability and act on such thoughts. Along with this book, the seminar features many additional relevant resources in the form of television, film, music, performance, and much more. This student-centered course is a chance for learners to generate dialogue in collaboration with the instructor, who acts as a facilitator rather than a lecturer.

Who should consider this seminar? All students are welcome.