FRESHMEN SEMINARS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2015:
These are available to students who are not already participating in other special UAlbany freshmen programs like the Honors College, EOP, and Living-Learning Communities.
We recommend all students eligible register for one. Speak with your advisor for more information!

Freshmen Seminars 1-credit classes (UFSP 100 – 1 credit, graded A-E)
These classes are designed specifically for freshmen to get to know each other and a member of our faculty in a small class setting. They are great opportunities to learn about a cutting edge topic from our best faculty while developing the skills needed to be a successful UAlbany student. Classes meet once a week for 55 minutes and provide students with an intimate learning experience designed to help them acclimate to the academic challenges at the University at Albany.

Professor Paul F. Agris and Katie Sarachan
#9175 T 1:15- 2:10
Building Blocks for BioTech
(Where did we come from? Where are we going?)
BB 209
How have we evolved from the origins of life on earth to today’s genetic engineering and modern medical approaches? From a basic chemical such as methane to the evolving field of molecular biology, scientific advances from the UAlbany RNA Institute are leading the world into new frontiers of BioTech innovation. This seminar for science-intended majors and those interested in biotechnology will start a conversation about the underpinnings of the biological sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, etc.) and resulting technologies. Learn the language of science and drug discovery. Learn what you need to do to be a successful science/biomedical major including an understanding of how laboratory research is conducted today and why it is important to YOU.

Professor Kevin Bronner
#8149 M 12:35-1:30
Personal Financial Planning for Freshmen
BB 209
This course will instruct students how to conduct financial planning related to events such as 1) student loan payments, 2) credit card debt, 3) housing costs, 4) automobile payments. Basic accounting principles will be reviewed in class to enable the students to understand personal finance issues. Students will be able to construct a real or hypothetical personal financial plan.

Professor Anthony DeBlasi
#8179 T 11:45-12:40
World of East Asian Studies
ED 125
Specially designed for freshmen studying Chinese, Japanese, or Korean, this seminar will help you understand the culture and background for these East Asian languages. You will work closely with faculty teaching language classes, understand study abroad opportunities, and connect with other freshmen interested in East Asian studies. The class will also include co-curricular ways to practice your language skills and learn about these fascinating cultures outside the walls of the classroom.

Professor Steven Doellefeld
#7593 T 2:45-3:40
An Introduction to Careers in Education
BB 205
Through your own experiences in education, you’ve developed a notion of what it means to be a teacher, but have you ever considered teaching as a career? We will explore demography and employment trends for instructional staff at different levels of formal schooling, from Kindergarten through higher education. In addition to readings and class discussions, we will meet and talk with people employed in the field – not only in careers in the classroom, but also in the myriad of careers in both management and support staff that facilitate and enable teachers to better perform in their roles. This exploration will include, but not be limited to, school counseling, curriculum development, guidance, and administration.

Professor Michael Eliot
# 10217 M 10:25 – 11:20
Seeing Through Other Eyes: Exploring Intercultural Awareness Competencies
BB 129
Intercultural competence is a set of cognitive, affective and behavioral skills and characteristics an individual possesses or develops to support effective, appropriate interaction in a multitude of cultural contexts. This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of intercultural awareness competencies, including exploring cultural identity, cross cultural understanding, dimensions of culture, and intercultural communication. This course will offer students an opportunity to participate in instructional activities aimed at raising cultural awareness.
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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Sanjay Goel</td>
<td>Digital Forensics and Cyber Security</td>
<td>HU 019</td>
<td>M 2:45 – 3:40</td>
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<td>#10280</td>
<td>Similar to DNA forensic scientists in the physical world, digital forensic analysts understand how to follow digital “fingerprints” in the form of electronic data from computers, networks, the cloud, GPS systems, and smartphones to investigate incidents and track activities. From identity theft to credit card skimming devices, cybercriminals are constantly developing new and ingenious ways to steal personal information and money from unsuspecting victims. In this seminar for freshmen intending to major in Digital Forensics, you will begin to learn how we are finding ways to combat these criminals.</td>
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<td>Professor Daniel Goodwin</td>
<td>Studio Visit: Developing a Sustainable Artistic Practice</td>
<td>BB 129</td>
<td>M 1:40-2:35</td>
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<td>#8147</td>
<td>Myths and stereotypes about what it means to be a contemporary artist are pervasive in our culture. Discover what it really means to be a socially-engaged studio artist today by visiting the studios of artists at a wide range of points in their careers, from undergraduate students in classes to MFA students in seminars, to established artists preparing to install their work in a museum or gallery. Together we will discover the diverse range of influences and approaches that guide these artists. You will experiment with techniques and processes through hands-on workshops as you explore the work of some of these practitioners through writing exercises.</td>
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<td>#7047</td>
<td>“Start Something that Matters” to YOU: Be a Social Entrepreneur! Can you make money and do something meaningful? Can you be passionate about your career or is making money separate from doing what makes you happy? Social entrepreneurs are doing both and we’ll explore how in this class. Using the story of TOMS shoes, we’ll explore our interests and discover our passion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Linda Krzykowski</td>
<td>Start Something that Matters</td>
<td>HU 019</td>
<td>T 11:45-12:40</td>
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<td>#8148</td>
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<td>Professor Ross Lazear</td>
<td>Storm, Climate Change and Environmental Impacts</td>
<td>ES 333</td>
<td>T 2:45 – 3:35</td>
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<td>#8529</td>
<td>Whether it’s checking the weather forecast on the way to school, saving energy on a hot summer day, or taking shelter from a severe thunderstorm, we have an important, close relationship with our planet and its future. Along with important lessons on the transition from high school to college, this course will cover major topics taught by experts in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, such as sustainability, energy and resources, hazardous weather and forecasting, and climate change. Enrolling will be a great opportunity to get to know faculty in the department, and meet your UAlbany peers who share the same passion for the atmosphere and environment you do. Recommended for those interested in majoring or minoring in Atmospheric Sciences or Environmental Sciences.</td>
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<td>Professor Mary Ellen Mallia</td>
<td>Visual Images of Sustainability</td>
<td>BA 214</td>
<td>T 2:45-3:40</td>
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<td>#7049</td>
<td>This course will examine ways that sustainability is portrayed in the visual arts. Most people are disconnected from the process by which goods and services are produced and disposed of, making it easier to develop unhealthy habits that negatively impact the environment. Visual images can bring this reality into focus for many. This course will explore the meaning of sustainability, examine some examples from sustainability in the visual arts, consider the link between lifestyle choices and their impact on the Earth and learn about steps that can be taken to create a healthy planet. Students will engage in reflective discussion based on assigned visual images and reading with the goal of creating a mini-documentary about sustainability.</td>
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<td>Professor Sean Rafferty</td>
<td>Critical Thinking and Skepticism</td>
<td>BB 205</td>
<td>W 10:25-11:20</td>
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<td>#7080</td>
<td>Do you believe everything you read? This class will present students with the basic principles behind thinking critically. Students will be presented with a range of real world examples to show the value of a scientifically literate and skeptical outlook. Throughout the course, we will read The Demon Haunted World which is described on Amazon.com as “Demons, UFO's, the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot, fairies and the like are all investigated in this incredible non-fiction book by the late Carl Sagan.”</td>
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How do your heritage, background, race and ethnicity influence your view of the world? Your day-to-day interactions? This course helps students expand their awareness and understanding of how culture shapes and influences daily life, enhance your appreciation of different cultural groups within and outside of the U.S., and prepare you to function successfully in cross-racial, cross-ethnic, and cross-cultural contexts. Topics covered include immigration and the immigrant’s experience, racial and ethnic identity, and western and non-western values. You will be encouraged to analyze concepts, issues, and themes from a social justice perspective. The course offers you an opportunity to heighten your awareness of your own immigrant background, racial and ethnic heritage, and cultural values and beliefs, and through this process, will strengthen your ability to grapple effectively with issues of multiculturalism in today’s U.S. society.

Spanish is the most spoken language in the world, second only to Mandarin. In addition, Spanish is spoken in many countries across 4 continents: Spain, the majority of the Latin American countries, the United States, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco and the Western Sahara, and the Philippines. This course will survey the history of Spanish from its development as a Romance dialect in northern Spain to its presence across the globe today. It will also look at how Spanish is used differently depending on the region and its contact with other languages. The course is taught in English.

This course examines a wide range of current constitutional issues in the news from abortion rights to hate speech. Students will study, analyze and critique Supreme Court decisions. The course introduces the students to major constitutional themes. Primary attention will be given to decisions involving voting rights, housing, criminal procedure, education, privacy, health care, and national security. The students will research the 2011-2012, 2012-2013 Supreme Court terms using the Court’s website. This course will provide the students with an opportunity to develop oral advocacy and research skills.

Seminars tied to Living-Learning Communities

- World of Accounting: Prof. Mark Hughes
- World of Biology: Prof. Richard Zitomer
- World of Career Discovery: Prof. Noah Simon
- World of Chemistry: Prof. Alan Chen
- World of Creativity and Entrepreneurship: Prof. Beth Coco
- World of East Asian Studies: Prof. Anthony DeBlasi
- World of Environmental Health and Green Living: Prof. Gary Kleppel
- World of Fitness and Well-being: Profs. Bruce McEwen and Sammy Axley
- World of Health Psychology: Prof. Drew Anderson
- World of History: Prof. Brian Keough
- World of Jewish Culture: Prof. Nomi Manon
- World of Laws and Justice: Prof. JoAnne Malatesta
- World of Psychology: Prof. Dayna Newton
- World of Social Justice and Service: Prof. Sheri Stevens
- World of Technology: Prof. Luis Luna-Reyes
- World of Theatre: Profs. Andi Lyons and Chad Larabee
- World of Writing: Profs. Rosemary Armao and Jill Hanifan