

FRESHMAN SEMINARS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2016:

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

Freshman 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 Kevin Bronner

#7710 M 12:35-1:30

Personal Financial Planning for Freshmen

Now that you are in college, how will you pay for it? How much debt is ok? This course will help students figure out 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 Fan Pen Chen

#7734 T 4:15 – 5:10

World of East Asian Studies

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. (Students can also participate in language tables. Enroll in UUNI 99 #10306.)

Professor Luis Cuesta

#10298 F 1:40 – 2:35

An Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Film

In this course, we will study important movies from Spain and Latin America, and familiarize ourselves with the basic terminology of film analysis. This seminar introduces new freshmen to films of renowned directors from around the Iberian world, such as Pedro Almodovar (Spain), Alejandro González Iñárritu (Mexico), or Juan José Campanella (Argentina). We will consider how race, class, gender, nationality, and sexuality are cinematically represented on the screen. Together, we will discuss cultural diversity through moral, spiritual, philosophical, and intellectual themes, and we will compare these to American filmmakers. This course is taught in English and all the films that are part of the seminar have English subtitles.

Professor Steven Doellefeld

#7247 T 2:45 – 3:40

An Introduction to Careers in Education

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 Elliott

#9292 M 10:25 – 11:20

Seeing Through Others' Eyes:**Exploring Intercultural Awareness Competencies**

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. 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 will offer students an opportunity to participate in interactive activities aimed at raising cultural awareness.

Professor Sally Friedman
#10296 F 2:45 – 3:40

Current Controversies

How informed are you about current political issues? No, this is not a test and being informed is not a prerequisite to this course! We will—through debates, simulations and a general discussion of the policy process—deepen your understanding of some current controversial issues, issues to be picked by the class. It is hoped that, by the end of the course, you will have not only enhanced your understanding of the issues we pick for discussion but also gain some tools to analyze current events more generally.

Professors Gaby Fuchs and Kathryn Sarachan
#8487 T 1:15- 2:10

**Building Blocks for BioTech:
Where Did We Come From? Where are We Going?**

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. Begin to understand how scientists think. 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 Daniel Goodwin
#7708 M 1:40 – 2:35

Studio Visit: Developing a Sustainable Artistic Practice

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 Masters in Fine Arts (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. Recommended for those considering majoring or minoring in Art or just interested in all forms of art. (note: immediately following class, you can participate in hands-on art projects. Register for UUNI 99 section# 10305.)

Professor Irina Holden
#10301 W 4:15 – 5:10

Food and Our Future: Understanding Sustainability through Science Literacy

We often read and hear about scientific studies in popular media, but how do we understand and use them? In this class, students will study basic concepts of science literacy - civic, practical, and cultural - while learning about issues related to food sustainability, such as food supply, production, and consumption. Course activities will include examining case studies and learning basic principles of online research. On completing the course, students will have gained a better understanding of food sustainability, as well as of the importance of science literacy in their academic and personal pursuits.

Professor Allison Hosier
#10303 T 2:45 – 3:40

Millennials in the Media

If you were born after 1981, you are a member of what has been popularly dubbed the “Millennial generation”. This generation is a hot topic of discussion in both popular and scholarly media, which often portray Millennials as being more interested in their phones than in the world around them. We'll explore how common beliefs about the Millennial generation compare to the real experience and how these beliefs can affect the way professors and employers see Millennials.

Professor Robert Keesee
#6759 F 1:40 – 2:35

Globalization and the Environment

You've probably heard the phrase “The world is getting smaller”. Advances in technology, including communication and transportation, have made resources, goods, labor, and services more accessible from far ranging places across the globe. A challenge in a globalizing society is how do people respond to their local situation and at the same time maintain a global perspective. In other words, how do we “act locally, think globally”? What we will do in this seminar is explore how this process of globalization provides both problems and opportunities in dealing with the environment from the local to global scale. After a little groundwork is laid down, the specific topics will depend on the interests of the class. Students will be responsible for presentation and discussion of these topics.

Professor Linda Krzykowski
#7709 T 11:45-12:40

Start Something That Matters

“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.

Professor Ross Lazear

#8059 T 2:45 – 3:40

Storms, Climate Change and Environmental Impacts

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.

Professor Mary Ellen Mallia

#6760 T 2:45 – 3:40

Introduction to Environmental Advocacy

In order to protect the environment on a global scale, everyone — not just scientists and policy makers — must be educated about and commit to environmental awareness. That's where environmental advocates and educators play an essential role. Environmental science is complex, and changing behaviors on a large scale is difficult. This course will introduce students to the concept of environmental advocacy and examine its application on a personal and professional level. The course will consist of engaging in campus events and using project based learning to illustrate and implement the ideals discussed in class.

Professor Nomi Manon

#10295 Th 1:15 – 2:10

**Sexuality, Tattoos, and Community:
Jewish Expression in the 21st Century**

This course will explore diverse voices in today's Jewish community. What are the many ways that young Jews today connect with their history, culture, and each other? What new methods have Jews in the 21st century found to express their Judaism in meaningful ways? How can we create community in the digital age? How does Jewish tradition inform the decisions that young people make in their lives – both Jewishly and in secular society? Through examining topics such as gender, sexuality, tattoos, and food, we will learn about the diversity of the contemporary Jewish landscape. No prior knowledge of Judaism is necessary for this course.

Professor Hilary Papineau

#10300 M 4:15 – 5:10

“Sketch Your City” – Reimagining Greyhound Bus Plaza

Urban planners bring different stakeholders together to reach a common vision for the future and create communities that offer better choices for where people live, work, and play. Come join us in this freshman seminar to unleash your inner planner by reimagining the Greyhound Bus Station Plaza in downtown Albany! In this interactive class, each student will role-play a different stakeholder in a charrette, or planning workshop, to develop and evaluate a collective vision for the Plaza. We'll use SketchUp, a 3-D modeling software, to design your vision. We'll use census data to understand the area's demographic and economic impact. Students will also meet with professional planners who can help shape your project as well as your career, and the class will include an optional site visit to get to know the downtown Albany area that includes a trip to nearby Cider Belly Donuts and the Corning Preserve waterfront park.

Professor Sean Rafferty

#6784 W 10:25 – 11:20

Critical Thinking and Skepticism

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.”

Professor Blanca Ramos

#6785 M 2:45 – 3:40

Multiculturalism in Today's U.S. Society

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, enhances 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, you will strengthen your ability to grapple effectively with issues of multiculturalism in today's U.S. society.

Professor David Smith

#10297 M 10:25 – 11:20

Lessons from Billionaires

Warren Buffett, of Omaha, Nebraska, is the third-richest person in the world. Many observers have debated the source of Mr. Buffett's "edge" over other investors in accumulating more than \$40 billion in personal wealth. Is it his superior analytical techniques? His unusual personal temperament? His access to investment opportunities and information that others cannot access? Many were surprised that as Mr. Buffett approached age 80, he began redirecting his priorities toward education, population control, and disease prevention, especially in developing countries.

This course investigates the various factors that most likely led to Mr. Buffett's extraordinary success, and whether his techniques and behaviors can be replicated by students today. More generally, the course examines research findings that reveal common lifestyle characteristics of people who become wealthy, as well as the benefits and costs of extraordinary wealth accumulation from a societal and family perspective. Finally, the course considers the idea and potential impact of personal philanthropy.

Professor Megan Solon

#10299 F 10:25 – 11:20

Spanish in the United States

Did you know that the United States is the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world? Only Mexico has more Spanish speakers! Nevertheless, the characteristics of U.S. Spanish speakers and of their Spanish language vary widely. This course will explore the growing presence of Spanish in the United States, discussing both who U.S. Spanish speakers are and what their language is like. We will examine characteristics of the Spanish language spoken in different regions of the United States and discuss Spanish spoken as a heritage and as a foreign language. This course will be conducted in English and no prior knowledge of Spanish is required.

Seminars tied to Living-Learning Communities

Living-Learning Community	Professor	Course Number
World of Accounting	Prof. Mark Hughes	7706
World of American Politics	Prof. Anne Hildreth	10313
World of Biology	Prof. Richard Zitomer and Gabriele Fuchs	9224
World of Career Discovery	Prof. Noah Simon	7704
World of Chemistry	Prof. Alan Chen	7757
World of Creativity & Entrepreneurship	Prof. Colby Creedon	8489
World of Digital Forensics	Prof. Fabio Auffant	10307
World of East Asian Studies	Prof. Fan Pen Chen	8468
World of Engineering and Applied Science	Prof. George Berg	8461
World of Environmental Sustainability	Prof. Gary Kleppel	7699
World of Global Medicine and Human Rights	Profs. Kamiar and Arash Alaei	9366
World of Health Psychology	Prof. Drew Anderson	7700
World of Humanities	Profs. Glynne Griffith and Rachel Dressler	10310
World of Laws and Justice	Prof. JoAnne Malatesta	7702
World of Past and Present	Prof. Brian Keough	7715
World of Psychology	Prof. Dayna Newton	8475
World of Community Service	Prof. Sharon Stevens	8467
World of Theatre	Profs. Chad Larabee and Kim Stauffer	9289
World of Well-being and Fitness	Prof. Bruce McEwen	7707
World of Writing	Prof. Rosemary Armao	7705