FRESHMEN SEMINARS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2014:
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 Lauren Kozakiewicz
American History Happens Here: How To Find It and Use It
#7319 F 10:25 -11:20
LC11
Whether you love or hate history you are going to be in a history class at some point during your time at Albany. This course will give you the skills both to do well and enjoy the experience. There will be practical tips on reading, writing, and speaking on historical topics. And you will learn how to make the best use of University’s academic resources, something that will help every eager scholar, even those who don’t become history majors. This section will work with American history resources.

Professor Steven Doellefeld
An Introduction to Careers in Education
#7942 T 2:45-3:40
HU 114
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 Mary Ellen Mallia
Visual Images of Sustainability
#7315 T 2:45-3:40
BB 137
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 from 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.

Professor Sean Rafferty
Critical Thinking and Skepticism
#7350 W 10:25-11:20
LC 11
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 Tim Taylor
Current Constitutional Issues
#7905 M 2:45-3:40
LC 14
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.
### Food and Our Future: Understanding Sustainability through Science Literacy

**Professor Irina Holden**  
#7349  
W 4:15-5:10  
BB 133  
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.

### Globalization and the Environment

**Professor Robert Keesee**  
#7312  
F 1:40-2:35  
ES 232  
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 the 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.

### Multiculturalism in Today’s U.S. Society

**Professor Blanca Ramos**  
#7351  
M 2:45-3:40  
ES 137  
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 awareness of your own immigrant background, racial and ethnic heritage, and cultural values and beliefs, particularly as this will strengthen your ability to grapple effectively with issues of multiculturalism in today’s U.S. society.

### Personal Financial Planning for Freshmen

**Professor Kevin Bronner**  
#8755  
M 12:35-1:30  
BB 129  
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.

### Public Health Ethics: What the Heck is Public Health, and Why Should I Care?

**Professor Susan Harris**  
#7313  
M 12:35-1:30  
LC 12  
Public Health issues, dilemmas, and ethics surround us. They affect us personally. Selected readings will introduce what public health is all about and will present public health controversies to spur discussion and debate. How should you weigh your rights against the interests of the community where you live? Is your community responsible for the care of individuals who know better, but persist in unhealthy behaviors? In a time of scarce resources, is universal health care cost effective and is it built on social justice? Why should you care about social justice? How much government regulation of food and drugs is good for public health and safety, and how much intrudes on one’s personal lifestyle? Where does personal privacy and choice end, and where does communal health and safety begin when it comes to contagious diseases, seatbelts, or alcohol use? This is just a sample of the opportunities and challenges this seminar has to offer those who want to get to know each other by joining in a lively public health conversation that affects each and every one of us and the college community.

### Start Something that Matters

**Professor Linda Krzykowski**  
#8754  
T 11:45-12:40  
BB 137  
“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.

### Studio Visit: Developing a Sustainable Artistic Practice

**Professor Daniel Goodwin**  
#8752  
W 1:40-2:35  
BB 129  
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 in depth through writing exercises.
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<tr>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony DeBlasi</td>
<td>World of East Asian Studies</td>
<td>HU 109</td>
<td>T 11:45-12:40</td>
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<td><em>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.</em></td>
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<td>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><em>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.</em></td>
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<td>Paul F. Agris and Katie Sarachan</td>
<td>Building Blocks for BioTech</td>
<td>ES 242</td>
<td>T 1:15- 2:10</td>
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<td><em>(Where did we come from? Where are we going?)</em></td>
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<td><em>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.</em></td>
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<td>John D Lisenby</td>
<td>World Cinema</td>
<td>LC 12</td>
<td>W 1:40-2:35</td>
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<td><em>In this course we will watch films from Spain, Latin America, Italy, France, and Russia – representing the languages of majors and minors in the Dept. of Languages, Literatures &amp; Cultures. Films will be approached through a cultural studies lens with attention to the socio-political contexts of their production and reception. An emphasis will be placed on Hispanic cinema, but films in Italian, French, and Russian will also be included. The course is taught in English, and all films shown have English subtitles.</em></td>
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<td>Lotfi Sayahi</td>
<td>Spanish as a World Language</td>
<td>BB 141</td>
<td>T 11:45-12:40</td>
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<td><em>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.</em></td>
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<td>Suraj Commuri</td>
<td>Hello Tomorrow: The Future of Marketing</td>
<td>BB 121</td>
<td>M 11:30-12:25</td>
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<td><em>The seminar will explore three topics to prepare students for courses and careers in Marketing — the future of consumer decision making (how consumers will make decisions in the future); the power of marketing (the role of marketing in influencing consumers in the future); and, information overwhelm (the implications of perpetual archival and retrieval of all information). Students will begin with their personal experiences as they relate to the three themes and, by the end of the seminar, examine the themes as social scientists and marketers.</em></td>
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<td>Jeannine Chandler</td>
<td>Surviving the Zombie Apocalypse (and College)</td>
<td>LC 3A</td>
<td>F 12:35-1:30 PM</td>
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<td><em>This freshman seminar course will combine an historical consideration of the zombie apocalypse with practical concerns regarding surviving your first year of higher education. Content-related topics will include: origins of zombies; the zombie apocalypse in popular culture; survival tactics/ preparedness; society/ human behavior in time of crisis; epidemiology, pandemics and plagues. This course is not for the squeamish.</em></td>
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