Win $100 toward your textbooks
at the UAlbany Bookstore!

Winners will be announced at the end of EACH
Explore UAlbany Session

The raffle is sponsored by SEFCU

Already bought your textbooks at the UAlbany
Bookstore? The Bookstore will issue a refund or you can
apply your prize toward your spring semester’s
textbooks.

Fridays at the Student Success Center

Join us every Friday at the UAlbany
Student Success Center from 1—3 PM for a
series of programs designed to help you
transition to life at UAlbany.

The Student Success Center is located on the
2nd floor of Whitman Hall on State Quad.

Refreshments will be served and prizes will be
raffled off at each session!

Special Thank You to SEFCU for sponsoring Explore UAlbany!
EXPLORE UALBANY

Use this worksheet to prepare for your journey!

Explore UAlbany is your opportunity to discover a new topic that interests you— it does not have to be related to your intended major!

From the following 10 sessions listed below, pick the 3 Explore UAlbany Sessions that interest you the most. Fill in the box below with your picks.

1. Droning On: How Drones will Change Your Lives
3. Regenerating Organs: Reality or Pipe Dream
4. You are only 1% Human
5. “Booty Hopscotch”: Is Searching for YouTube Music Contributing to Sexploitation?
6. Double-Tap for Future
7. The Death Penalty in the United States: Cruel and Unusual?
8. Dude, Where’s My Cell Phone: Memories from the Ordinary to the Extra-ordinary
9. Is Tourism A Dirty Word?! Tourism, Excess, And Inequality In Caribbean Paradise
10. Is Race Real?

Fill out your Top 3 Explore UAlbany Sessions

*You will only be able to attend 1 but it may get full

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Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies

IS TOURISM A DIRTY WORD?! TOURISM, EXCESS, AND INEQUALITY IN CARIBBEAN PARADISE

Christine Vassallo-Oby, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 20

Have you ever gone on vacation and thought to yourself, maybe relaxing on a beach while taking in the sun’s rays, "I wonder where the heck I am!? Who are these people waiting on me, serving me drinks, and cleaning my room!?" Looking beyond the hotel lobby, resort’s gates, or off the cruise ship itself can be at once a stark reminder of global inequality but also an opportunity to change the way we conceptualize the idea of "tourist" versus "traveler."

In an age of Instagram, SnapChat, and YouTube, how we portray what we see into a set of images, especially as tourists to the Global South, is increasingly important to our own cultural capital and self-worth as both a society and as individuals. Framing popular tourism theory in an accessible way is our key to understanding our own role as global citizens, curious human beings part of a globalized reality, and, yes-- as tourists! This lecture will introduce you to the intersections of race, identity, history, and popular culture and hopefully challenge you to think about your position as a consumer of commodified experiences and culture in new ways!

HISTORY

IS RACE REAL?

Richard Fogarty, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 7

Of course it is! What a silly question. It’s as simple as black and white. Or is it? Like many subjects we think we know a lot about, we’ll find that the reality is far more complex and interesting than we often assume. Using examples and research from a wide variety of fields of study, we’ll see that the “reality” of race—what it means in different times, places, and contexts—is far more subject to change, variety, and debate than many people think.

Examining diverse ideas about race and the different forms racism has taken in different cultures, both in the past and today, we’ll see that “black and white” is only part of the story. This lecture is just one example of how your college education will take you deeper into everyday problems, broadening your horizons and challenging you to think in new ways.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED STATES: CRUEL AND UNUSUAL?
James Acker, J.D., Ph.D.
Lecture Center 23

Capital punishment has been a part of American systems of criminal justice throughout the country’s history. It has long been a contentious legal and policy issue as well. In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled the death penalty unconstitutional as it was then administered, although the Court did an about-face and approved revised capital sentencing procedures four years later. Since then, much has been learned about death penalty practices and dramatic changes have taken place in its use. While many Americans continue to support the death penalty, calls increasingly have been made for its abolition and for the Supreme Court to reconsider its constitutionality. We will examine these controversial issues and trends concerning the death penalty in the United States, assisted by reference to UAlbany’s National Death Penalty Archive, which is home to one of the country’s largest and most comprehensive collections of capital punishment materials.

PSYCHOLOGY

DUDE, WHERE’S MY CELL PHONE: MEMORIES FROM THE ORDINARY TO THE EXTRA-ORDINARY
Jeanette Altarriba, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 2

Have you ever misplaced your keys, forgotten someone’s name, or struggled to recall what you did last night? The phenomenon of memory reconstruction and the development of false memories and beliefs is a “hot topic” in cognitive and memory research. But just how can we demonstrate the existence of such memories? And, when we do forget, what are some techniques to try to remember? Learn about what the research tells us regarding false memories, their impact in your decision making, and what to do to decrease their prevalence.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOMELAND SECURITY, & CYBERSECURITY

DRONING ON: HOW DRONES WILL CHANGE YOUR LIVES
Robert Griffin, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 25

What happens when a technology completely changes society? How do we balance technological advancement with fundamental rights like privacy and safety? Let’s talk about the future with drones! By 2020 over 7 million drones will have been purchased in the United States with an anticipated economic impact by 2025 of over $90 billion annually. Almost every aspect of your lives will be changed by drones and drone technologies. Drones are changing how packages are delivered, how real estate is sold, how fires are fought, and how we wage war. In the not too distant future, drones will provide taxi and ambulance services and represent the leading edge of autonomous vehicles and domestic robotics. Come learn about a technology available today will impact your lives.

YOU AIN’T SEEN NOTHING YET: HOW CHEAP ROBOTS, CAMERAS, AND COMPUTERS ARE RADICALLY CHANGING OUR LIVES
George Berg, Ph.D.
Jonathan Muckell, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 21

Many people think that personal computers linked together via the internet have changed the world. The real changes have barely started. Digital electronics have become increasingly small and inexpensive. This is leading to the use of cameras and sensors in ways that would have been impossible just a few years ago. We are starting to see practical robotic vehicles that can explore land, sea and air. In addition, inexpensive computing power and the ability to store truly amazing amounts of data mean that the data gathered by these devices, as well as just about anything else known about us, can be analyzed and scrutinized. We’ll look at several aspects of this. What are the technologies underlying these changes? What is driving the use of these systems? What are the implications for our safety and privacy?
REGENERATING ORGANS: REALITY OR PIPE DREAM?

Melinda Larsen, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 24

People have organs with an inherent and amazing ability to regenerate, both to maintain health and to respond to injury. And this is true for all mammals. However, in many diseases including vascular disease, diabetes, and aging these normal processes are impaired. Regenerative medicine promises to restore normal function to diseased organs or to replace them with engineered organs. Is this possible in the foreseeable future? How does understanding molecular mechanisms of organogenesis (how organs develop) help make this dream possible?

YOU ARE ONLY 1% HUMAN

Magdia De Jesus, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 18

Did you know that you are 1% human and 99% microbial? It turns out that you have approximately 1 trillion human cells and 10 trillion microbial cells in you and on you at any given moment. You are some sort of interesting microbial creature! But wait there is more!! Did you know that your extraordinary “microbial self” is quite dynamic and can change based on the foods that you eat, the people that you spend time with and the pets that you care for? It sounds like you have some sort of morphing super hero abilities! In this lecture, you will not only learn more about your dynamic “microbial self” but also about how your immune system plays an important role in orchestrating this marvelous symbiotic relationship, thus, making you a dynamic and amazing UAlbany student.

“BOOTY HOPSCOTCH”: IS SEARCHING FOR YOUTUBE MUSIC CONTRIBUTING TO SEXPLOITATION?

Kyra Gaunt, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 1

Watching music videos is one of the most popular things we do on YouTube. Can a sexy song or video we search for on YouTube contribute to the sexploitation of tween girls of color? Can something be exploitation when it doesn’t feel like exploitation and is fun? Based on case-study of over 600 twerking videos uploaded from 2008 to 2014, we ask who is making the important decisions about sexual content on YouTube and how would we find out? Who protects members of vulnerable and/or marginalized groups on the platform and whose reputation to influence community norms matters? While technology like YouTube is free, it is also deeply embedded in structures of colonialism, exploitation and inequality. Could the benefits of technology be blinding us to larger questions of power leading to disconnects marked by the intersections of gender, race, and age?

DOUBLE-TAP FOR FUTURE

Suraj Commuri, Ph.D.
Lecture Center 4

As the next generation of consumers is growing up relying on smartphones and social networks, marketing has rapidly evolved to make room. Today’s marketing-on-demand bears little resemblance to anything we have seen before. Learn in this lecture what marketing is in the age of social media and smartphones and why the recipe for success is not a lot of money, but a simple idea.