

FRESHMAN SEMINARS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2018:

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. Some include a discussion section for high engagement!

Professor Fan Pen Chen

#6586

Friday 1:40-2:35 pm**Wednesday 1:40-2:35 pm****World of East Asian Studies****Linked discussion section-sign up for UNI99 #8087**

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

#8083

Wednesday 5:45-6:40 pm**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

#6202

Tuesday 2:45-3:40 pm**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

#7600

Monday 10:25-11:20 am**Seeing Through Other Eyes:****Building Intercultural Understanding**

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to build intercultural understanding, including exploring culture shock and adjustment, cultural values and identity, dimensions of culture, intercultural conflict and intercultural communication. The course is divided into three major parts: Exploring and understanding your surrounding and resources for academic, social and cultural success, investigating place and fit within your own culture, and better understanding and addressing cultural differences in your interactions with culturally different people and societies. This course will offer students the chance to participate in interactive activities in and out of the classroom, such as group games and simulations, cultural case studies, group discussions, guest speakers from different countries and cultures as well as university departments, intercultural journaling and cultural events, all aimed at raising intercultural understanding.

Professor Irina Holden

#8085 Wednesday 4:15-5:15 pm

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

#8086 Monday 1:40-2:35 pm

Empowering Yourself as a User and Creator of Information

Everyone knows that you shouldn't believe everything you read, but at one time or another we have all believed something that turned out to be false or that was unsupported by evidence. In this class, we'll discuss some of the complicating factors, both internal and external, when it comes to deciding what information to believe and when to change our minds. We'll learn to think critically about the information we encounter on a daily basis and establish a set of responsibilities for ourselves as consumers and creators of information that can be applied to a variety of information-seeking and information creation contexts.

Professor Linda Krzykowski

#6569 Wednesday 1:40-2:35 pm

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

#6878 Tuesday 2:45-3:40 pm

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

#5842 Friday 12:35-1:30 pm

Introduction to Environmental Advocacy

Wednesday 12:35-1:30 pm

Linked discussion section 9945

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

**Sexuality, Tattoos, and Community:
Jewish Expression in the 21st Century
Linked discussion section 8248**

Thursday 12:10-1:05 pm

Tuesday 12:10-1:05 pm

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 Rae Muhlstock

#9220

Monday 4:40-5:35 pm**Wednesday 4:40-5:35 pm****Science Fiction and our Fears****Linked discussion section 9221**

*It has been said that the best science fiction tells us not about the times (past or future) or places (alien worlds) or people (robots, cyborgs, alien races) that they project. While science fiction is often considered a prophetic genre, the **best** science fiction, regardless of when and where it is set, tells the story of **us** and the fears, anxieties, hopes, and dreams we have **now**. The best science fiction is a metaphor for **us, now**, as we already are and dream we may be. In this class, we will focus on some of the post popular science fiction shows currently airing, as well as a few gems from the past. We will use these to better understand the unique challenges, anxieties, hopes and dreams of the 21st century.*

In addition to exploring the implications of our current fears and anxieties on our (science) fiction, this course will have a tie to the public humanities film festival, "Classics of Science Fiction", a weekend-long event. Student in the class will be expected to attend the festival (passes will be provided) and to participate in planning the event. For example, student will vote on the student films to screen, help promote the festival, and have special access to the keynote speaker.

Professor Richard Neff

#9943

Tuesday 1:15-2:00 pm**Thursday 1:15-2:10 pm****Entrepreneurship and Innovation****Linked discussion section 9944**

The terms "entrepreneurship" and "innovation" are commonly used in our society, but what do they really mean, and how can someone develop and use those skills? Entrepreneurship is not about starting a business; it is about solving problems. Entrepreneurial skills are critical whether you want to launch your own venture, advance as an employee at a company, or help your community. Innovation is not inventing something new; it is using your creativity to develop new solutions. Innovation and entrepreneurship go hand-in-hand.

This seminar is aimed at students who want to learn more about innovation and entrepreneurship, including learning about startups; developing innovative ideas, products and services; and commercializing technology. This seminar will cover types and methodologies for innovation and entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial skills, business model development, and how innovation and entrepreneurship can benefit you in your personal life and career. All students interested in entrepreneurship and innovation are encouraged to take this seminar!

Professor Denise Osborne

#9946

Friday 9:20-10:15 am**African Influence in Brazilian Culture**

*Brazil has the largest population of black people outside Africa. More than half of the population in the county identify as black. African culture can be seen everywhere: in the music, food, religion, language, sports, and most of what we call Brazilian culture – which is, in fact, of African origin. In this seminar, students will learn about African contributions to Brazilian culture such as **candomblé** (Afro-Brazilian religion), **capoeira** (martial arts created by former slaves), **Baile Funk and Brazilian Hip Hop**, African cuisine from Bahia, **samba, carnival**, and much more as we reflect on black consciousness, human rights, and a dynamic understanding of race.*

Professor Sean Rafferty

#5853

Wednesday 10:25-11:20 am**Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster: 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 and Ramon Guerrero

#5854

Monday 2:45-3:40 pm**Multiculturalism in Today's U.S. Society**

How do your cultural and ethnic heritages influence your view of the world and your day-to-day interactions? This course helps you expand your awareness and understanding of how culture shapes and influences your daily life and enhances your appreciation of different cultures within and outside of the U.S. The course offers you opportunities to heighten your awareness of your own cultural and ethnic heritages, immigrant background, and cultural values and beliefs. It will strengthen your ability to grapple effectively with issues of multiculturalism in today's U.S. society. You will be encouraged to analyze multiculturalism concepts, issues, and themes from a social justice perspective.

Professor David Smith**#8082 Tuesday 9:10-10:05 am****Lessons from Billionaires**

Warren Buffett, of Omaha, Nebraska, is the second-richest person in the world. Many observers have debated the source of Mr. Buffett's "edge" over other investors in accumulating more than \$75 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 what 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 explores the idea and potential impact of personal philanthropy.

Professor Kendra Smith-Howard**#9947 Monday 12:35-1:30 pm
Wednesday 12:35-1:30 pm****Finding Your Way at UAlbany
Linked discussion section 9948**

Where does your life fit in the larger scheme of things? Who, and what, can you depend on? This course provides an introduction to both the human and natural communities of UAlbany. Our class will document the natural systems—water, plants, animals, air, and soils—that sustain our bodies, minds, and spirits. You will be asked to practice techniques of observation the campus flora and fauna, to carefully analyze readings from natural science & history about the region's environment & community, and to work with your peers to plan actions that help others recognize their relationship to one another and the world.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Notice things about the waters, flora, fauna, and effects of people in the natural world
- Name four locally-occurring species you couldn't at the start of the semester
- Ask informed and curious questions.
- Identify some of the most pressing local environmental issues.
- Have some ideas about the resources on campus and in the community to help you learn.
- Engage in conversation with people who have different experiences or perspectives than your own.
- Have some ideas and about and practice some ways of making a difference in the world

Seminars tied to Living-Learning Communities

Living-Learning Community	Professor	Course Number
World of Accounting	Prof. Mark Hughes	6566
World of Biology	Prof. Gabriele Fuchs	7560
World of Biology	Prof. Morgan Sammons	8883
World of Business	Prof. Joseph Sheehan but No freshman seminar	N/A
World of Career Discovery	Prof. Noah Simon	6565
World of Chemistry	Prof. Alan Chen	6602
World of Community Service	Prof. Shari Stevens	6561
World of Digital Forensics	Prof. Fabio Auffant	8088
World of East Asian Studies	Prof. Fan Pen Chen	7160
World of Engineering and Applied Science	Prof. Jonathan Muckell	6560
World of Global Medicine and Human Rights		7643
World of History and Current Events	Prof. Brian Keough	6574
World of Laws and Justice	Prof. JoAnne Malatesta	6564
World of Medicine, Healthcare and Global Health	Professor Alvaro Carrascal	10150
World of Physics and the Environment	Profs. Jonathan Petruccelli and Matthew Szydakis	9939
World of Politics	Profs. Bruce Miroff and Zakhar Berkovich	9949
World of Psychology	Profs. Annie Connors and Drew Anderson	7166
World of Future Technologies and Security	Prof. Robert Griffin	9999
World of Theatre	Profs. Karla Kash and Renee Bell	7598
World of Well-being and Fitness	Prof. Bruce McEwen and Sarah Wolanin	6567
World of Writing	Profs. Jil Hanifan and Paul Grondahl	9941