FRESHMAN SEMINARS AVAILABLE FOR FALL 2019:
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 James Boswell**  
Emotions and Well-Being  
#9501  
Wednesday 1:40-2:35 pm
*Emotions are a critical part of human experience and daily life, yet most of us receive little guidance regarding the nature, function, and impacts of basic, primary, and secondary emotions. What are emotions in the first place? Why do we feel sad, anxious, or angry? Is it realistic to expect to be happy all of the time? This course is designed to help students become their own emotion expert. In addition to enhancing self-awareness, the topics and activities in this course will provide strategies for improving problem solving and well-being.*

**Professor Fan Pen Chen**  
World of East Asian Studies  
#5936  
Wednesday 4:40-5:35 pm  
#9493  
Wednesday 5:45-6:40 pm  
Linked discussion section-sign up for #9493
*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 meet faculty members from across the department of East Asian Studies and benefit from their expertise, learn studying skills, understand study abroad opportunities, and connect with other freshmen interested in East Asian studies.*

**Professor Luis Cuesta**  
An Introduction to Spanish and Latin American Film  
#7227  
Wednesday 5:45-6:40 pm
*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**  
An Introduction to Careers in Education  
#5615  
Wednesday 1:40-2:35 pm
*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  
#6842  Monday 1:40-2:35 pm  
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 and university departments, intercultural journaling and cultural events, all aimed at raising intercultural understanding.

Professor Mercedes Fabian  
#9297  Wednesday 4:15-5:10 pm  
Health Care Serial Killers  
What drives healthcare professionals to kill their patients? After learning basic anatomical terminology and relevant medical law, we will examine various ethical dilemmas in the medical field and study several notable case studies in order to attempt to understand how/why dangerous individuals entered the medical field, and what led to their deviant behavior. Begin your UAlbany journey with a true crime seminar that scrutinizes healthcare professionals with a warped interpretation of the Hippocratic Oath.

Professor David Fallon  
9815  Monday 4:15 – 5:10  
Making a Murderer: Wrongful Convictions, False Confessions, and Other Challenges to Our Criminal Justice System  
Examined through the lens of the Netflix documentary, “Making a Murderer,” this course will examine the American criminal justice system, particularly wrongful convictions, false confessions, the ineffective assistance of counsel and the appeals process for challenging these matters. Students will learn to think critically and challenge themselves in how they view the police, prosecutors, and defense attorneys as they work their way through the twists and turns of the series. Course activities will include in-depth discussions of the case presented, interviews with criminal justice professionals, and research about the impact of false confessions on the criminal justice system. Recommended for those interested in majoring in criminal justice. This course requires students to have a subscription to Netflix.

Professor Jennifer Goodall  
#9298  Monday 4:15-5:10 pm  
Women in Technology  
What do Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, Ada Lovelace, and Hedy Lamarr have in common? They are all women pioneers in technology. Despite a long history of women “computers”, women in technology fields are typically underrepresented. This seminar is for women and men alike who want to learn more about the history of women in tech, why there is such gender disparity in the related fields, and consider what can be done to reach parity in computing. All students interested in gender studies, informatics, cybersecurity, computer science, and engineering are welcome to join this seminar!

Professors Danny Goodwin, Corrina Ripps Schaming, and Edward Schwarzschild  
#9508  Wednesday 2:45-3:40 pm  
Why Museums Matter  
Did you know UAlbany has a contemporary art museum on campus that is free and open to the public? Join photographer Danny Goodwin, author Ed Schwarzschild and the Interim Director of the University Art Museum Corrina Ripps Schaming as we examine how museums have transformed, and continue to transform, our interpretation and construction of contemporary culture. Go behind the scenes with guest artists and museum professionals to gain firsthand knowledge about how museums have become active social spaces that engage visitors in critical conversations about vital issues affecting us all. Add your voice as we imagine museums of the future.

Professors Ramon Guerrero and Blanca Ramos  
#5369  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 Anne Hildreth
Running for President?!
#9506       Monday 11:35 – 12:30
Rank and file voters don’t weigh in until the January primaries and caucuses begin, but many candidates, party elites, donors and the media are already working hard to tip the scales of the 2020 race for the White House. How do these elements of the election contest and key campaign resources interact and influence who is chosen as party nominee and president? In this class, we will follow the campaigns as they unfold to evaluate the current presidential selection process and its consequences for politics and our political system.

Professor Irina Holden
Food and Our Future: Understanding Sustainability through Science Literacy
#7228       Wednesday 4:15-5:10 pm
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. Upon completing the course, students will have gained a better understanding of food sustainability, as well as the importance of science literacy in their academic and personal pursuits.

Professor Allison Hosier
Empower Yourself as a User and Creator of Information
#7229       Wednesday 9:20-10:15 am
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 Ross Lazear
Storms, Climate Change and Environmental Impacts
#6214       Tuesday 2:45-3:40 pm
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 and 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
Sustainability Skills for the Future
#5359       Friday 12:35-1:30 pm
This course enables students to acquire sustainability life skills in a variety of areas and to explore possible career-related practices, from building and gardening to finance and group facilitation. Possible skills include: bike repair and maintenance, beekeeping, home energy audits, meditation skills, spinning/wool crafts, gardening, vegan cooking, canning and everyday sustainability swaps to live a more environmental response life.

Professor Nomi Manon
Jewish Expression in the 21st Century
#7225       Thursday 12:20-1:05 pm
Linked discussion section-sign up for #7363
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 Aaron Major
Utopian Ideas for the Real World
#9507       Wednesday 11:30 am-12:25 pm
What if every person were guaranteed an income that would let them live a decent life, even if they didn’t work? What if companies were owned and managed collectively by all of their employees? By exploring some radical, egalitarian proposals to address economic inequality, we will be challenged to think through the technical, cultural, and moral underpinnings of contemporary capitalism and, in so doing, uncover the sociology of complex economic systems.
For some, food is fuel. But for all, food is much more than that. Food is culture, history, art, entertainment. Food is economy, it is nature, it is science, it is life. And food fuels much more than our bodies; it fuels our lives, our stories, our films, our thoughts. In this class we will investigate the role of food in our lives, our city, in literature, and in film. We will explore our own cultures, our past, and our present to see the unique spaces that food occupies.

In addition to the above, this course will have a tie-in to the public humanities Film Festival and Lecture Series, “Food on Film,” a weekend-long event that will take place off campus and will engage both the university and Capital District communities. Students in the class will be expected to attend the festival November 7-10 (full weekend passes will be provided) and to participate in planning and running the event.

Professor Rae Muhlstock  
#S015  
Wednesday 4:40-5:35 pm  
Are You What you Eat?: Food, Literature, and Culture

Professor Richard Neff  
#8514  
Tuesday 1:15-2:10 pm  
Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Professor Denise Osborne  
#8516  
Friday 9:20-10:15 am  
African Influence in Brazilian Culture

Professor Sean Rafferty  
#5368  
Wednesday 10:25-11:20 am  
Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster: Critical Thinking and Skepticism

Professor David Smith  
#7226  
Tuesday 9:10-10:05 am  
Lessons from Billionaires

Professor Christine Vassallo-Oby  
#9505  
Wednesday 12:35-1:30 pm  
Current Vision of the U.S./Mexico Border: Fear, Violence and Racism

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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.

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Seminars that are part of our Living-Learning Community experience. These also have a discussion section linked to them where students and professor have a weekly meal.

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