

**FIRST YEAR SEMINARS; LIVE-LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

**FALL 2019**

**COURSE OFFERINGS AS OF 4/8/2019**

CRN: 89458  
**BEWARE THE IDES, BEWARE THE HEMLOCK: ROLEPLAYING CRISIS IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME**  
Professor T.H.M. Gellar-Goad, Department of Classical Languages

The Thirty Tyrants have at long last been expelled from Athens, and now it is up to you and your closest friends and enemies to determine the future of the greatest city-state in the Mediterranean - and the future of the gadfly philosopher Socrates. The conspiracy of Catiline has been uncovered, and the fate of the conspirators and of Rome rests in your hands. Two decades later, the dictator Julius Caesar has been assassinated, and it falls upon you to maneuver through the wrangling in the Senate to decide what the People of Rome should do. You will play in three "Reacting to the Pase" scenarios set in ancient Greece and Rome: you will become a stakeholder in these world-changing crises and you will fight, speak, study, sweet-talk, and coerce your way to power over your classmates, be they allies or adversaries. This course is suitable for all students of all kinds, interests, and backgrounds, and will offer fun, low-pressure opportunities to develop writing, public-speaking, critical thinking, and persuasion skills. This is a service-learning course in which all students will spend time working with community partners to help address local needs and aid reflection on course material.

MWF 2:00 – 2:50  
Tribble A303  
Fall 2019

This course is reserved for first-year students who are interested in participating in a unique learning community inside and outside the classroom. Exploration of course topics and group participation in a limited number of co-curricular events will encourage a smooth transition to college life. Through these activities, we will cultivate relationships with one another and with the community around us, explore our individual strengths and common interests, and develop leadership skills. This group will live in the same residence hall. The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

**TRAGIC LOVE STORIES, ANCIENT AND MODERN**  
Professor Brian Warren, Department of Classical Languages

Two civilizations in particular have shaped our understanding of political life and civic responsibility in deep and profound ways: Greece and Rome. We are heavily indebted to the ancient world for our ideas about not only the structure and operation of government but also what it means for the individual to be a citizen and to act like one. This course will aid students in returning to the intellectual roots of our beliefs about citizenship. We will also investigate how classical history and literature influenced modern Western political thought, especially in the late medieval and early modern periods.

TR 11:00 – 12:15  
Tribble A303  
Fall 2019

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CRN: 90868
COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, AND SOUTH ASIA
Professor Ananda Mitra, Department of Communication

This course takes a critical look at the history, culture, politics and geography of South Asia with the goal of understanding how the people from that part of the world have an influence on global issues and how the cultures of South Asia are influenced by the process of globalization. The course requires occasional Sunday afternoon viewing of Bollywood movies.

MW 12:30 – 1:45  TBD  Fall 2019

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CRN: 89874
IDENTITY AND GLOBAL CHANGE
Professor Mary Dalton, Department of Communication; Professor Ron Neal, Department of Religious Studies; Professor Molly Knight, Department of German and Russian; Professor T.H.M Gellar-Goad, Department of Classical Languages

This course explores the relationship between personal identity formation and various political and social forces of change across historical and geographical boundaries. In fleshing out this relationship, attention will be given to the lived and material consequences of constructed identities or how identities are embodied in the social world. Through varied, thematically linked case studies that range in length from one class period to several weeks, students will encounter, discuss, and reflect on cross-historical and global negotiations between self and society that constitute “identity.” The general goals of the course are to give students a deeper understanding of their own diverse identities and their place in the larger world through reading scholarly essays, engaging with relevant media texts, writing original essays, conducting independent research, giving speeches and class presentations based on their research, and completing experiential learning exercises.

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CRN: 97117
MATHEMATICAL PUZZLES AND GAMES
Professor Sarah Mason, Department of Math
This is a hands-on seminar in which students will use mathematical structures to solve puzzles and play games with the underlying goal of improving critical thinking and logical reasoning skills. Students will work together to develop problem-solving strategies that are applicable to many areas of life such as financial planning, collaborations, leadership, and negotiations. This course will also feature a community outreach component designed to help enrich the curriculum for local special needs children using the playful, creative, and strategic aspects of mathematics.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 Manchester 122 Fall 2019

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NEW: CRN: 97236

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IN FILMS
Professor Jumana Al-Ahmad, Middle East and South Asian Studies

This interdisciplinary course examines the Middle East and North Africa through films and academic texts. Through analyzing films and reading scholarly texts drawn from history, film studies, sociology, and cultural anthropology, students will gain insights into the history, perspectives, politics, and cultures of the region. Topics included are colonialism, post-colonialism, popular music, nation building, gender, war and conflict, everyday life, poverty, revolutions, and refugees.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 TBD Fall 2019

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CRN: 97119

THE WORLD’S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE: USING SEMI-BIG DATA TO DECIDE THE ORIGINS OF INFLUENCE
Professor Jed Macosko, Department of Physics

Who has influenced our world? Who influences it now? Is it possible to use the principles of Big Data to discover the Who’s-Who in each field? In this class, we will explore a new website that attempts to do exactly that, and we will draw our own conclusions about how successful it is. Using this website as a springboard, we will use inquiry and analysis to find the top influencers in each sphere. Students will choose academic disciplines that interest them and present their findings on people who have influenced those fields. Students will also read the writings and speeches of these influencers. Throughout the class, we will examine the benefits and dangers of Big Data and of collective knowledge repositories such as Wikipedia.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 Olin 102 Fall 2019
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CRN:  97124
"Live and 'In Color'": the Experience of Blacks and Hispanics in the US through Theater
Professors Jerf Friedenberg and Teresa Sanhueza
Department of Theatre and Dance, Department of Spanish and Italian

In the immediate future, while still the dominant culture, white Americans will be a minority in the US. How are different minority cultures viewed within this ‘dominant minority’ culture? This class seeks to explore the specific circumstances of Black and Hispanic students, international or domestic, within this context. Drawing on their experiences, and from essays, plays, discussions with guests from various academic perspectives, and interviews conducted on campus, students will work collaboratively to create and perform a dramatic work for the campus community. No experience in theater necessary.

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