

August 4, 2026

Fall, 2026

First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions by the Instructors

Catalog Course Descriptions May Be Found at

https://courses.umb.edu/course_catalog/subjects/2025%20Fall

Two Seminars Added on August 4:

Religious Studies [RELSTY] 115G Religion, Politics, Sex, and Violence. Prof. Mia Applebaum. Section 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Wednesdays 8:00 – 8:50. Class Number 14364.

This course covers three themes--religion and public life, violence and non-violence, sexes and sexualities. Students become familiar with a range of major religious thinkers and formulate their own constructive positions. This course may count toward completion of the Study of Religion Program.

Sociology [SOCIOL] 120G Sociology of Popular Culture. Prof. Skylar Rathvon. Section 7. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:15 and Tuesdays 5:20 – 6:10. Course number 14363.

What is popular culture? How do mass media and popular culture help us to make sense of our world, identities, and relationships? Do we organize our lives around media or do media shape our lives? Do media technologies make us happier or better citizens in a democratic society? This course will address such questions by applying various theoretical lenses to artifacts and visual messages in media and popular culture, with a primary emphasis on developing a critical awareness of contemporary mass media (radio, film, photography, music, television, fashion, video games, the internet) and their impact on culture.

You will examine your own conceptions and consumption of media through (1) readings and group tasks that engage and challenge your perspective on our cultural landscape, (2) a service-learning project that integrates the local community with your understanding of course material, and (3) writing assignments that allow you to apply the theories and concepts you learn to your own analysis of popular culture. Access to a camera is required.

Africana Studies [AFRSTY] 115G: Black Consciousness. Prof. Tony Van Der Meer. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Thursdays 2:00-2:50 Class Number 2465.

This course will examine the development of Black consciousness in the 20th century. The social, economic, cultural, and political implications of Black consciousness will be

explored. The impact of Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, The Harlem Renaissance, The Civil Rights/Black Power movement, The Nation of Islam and The Black Arts Movement on the development of Black consciousness will also be examined.

American Studies [AMSTY] 110G: U. S. Society and Culture Since 1945. Prof. Anne Blaschke. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 and Wednesdays 12:00 – 12:50. Class Number 2393.

This course examines the multiple, and often differing ways that Americans have lived, thought, and expressed themselves from World War II to the present. Much of our country's history has been defined by conflicts among ethnic groups and social classes about rights to economic, social, and moral well-being and even the right to call oneself an "American." To ponder these and similar problems, scholarship in American Studies draws on an interdisciplinary approach to thinking about life in this country. Starting with World War II, but with emphasis on the historical and the political context of American life since 1945, especially social class, ethnicity, race (most importantly, the African American struggle for civil rights), and work, we will use historical documents, literature, music, and movies to learn about the significant events and changes in American society since World War II and people's responses to them.

Anthropology [ANTH] 113G: Food and Society. Prof. Rita Shepard. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 3610. Prof. Rita Shepard.

The focus of this 4 hour/4 credit seminar is food - a topic that is important to all of us. Throughout the semester we will explore how food is related to culture. Discussion topics include the origins of agriculture, modern agriculture and genetically modified foods, food taboos, food insecurity and hunger, festivals/feasting food, and more. The readings are structured around different aspects of these topics that will allow us to closely examine how food, society, and culture are interconnected, and I anticipate the discussions throughout the semester being quite lively and thought provoking. These class discussions will be facilitated by writing assignments and participation in group projects. In our study of food, we will also learn aspects of critical thinking, careful reading, as well as how to do library and web-based research. Longer writing assignments and oral presentations will allow you to apply these skills to specific questions and data sets.

Business Administration [BUSADM] 120G. Beacon to Business: Opportunities and Challenges.

Section 1: Prof. Charles Wibralske. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:15 and Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:30. Class Number 3996.

Section 2: Prof. John Scialoia. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45 and Thursdays 11:00 – noon. Class Number 3997. Reserved for College of Management Students.

Section 3: Prof. Charles Wibralske. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 *and* Tuesdays 11:00 – 12:00. Class Number 3998.

Section 4: Prof. John Scialoia. MW 1:00 – 2:15 and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30. Class Number 3999. Reserved for College of Management Students.

Section 5: Prof. John Scialoia. Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:15 *and* Mondays 2:30 – 3:30. Class Number 4000.

Section 6: Prof. Edward Cook. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:45. Class Number 4025. Reserved for College of Management Students.

Section 7: Prof. Charles Wibralske. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 *and* Mondays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 4453. Reserved for College of Management Students. Class Number 4453.

Section 8: Staff. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00 – 12:50, *and* Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 4454.

Section 9: Staff. Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00 – 9:15 and Mondays 9:30 – 10:30. Class Number 10798. Reserved for College of Management Students.

Section 10: Staff. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:15 and Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:30. Class Number 10799. Reserved for College of Management Students.

Course Description: This course will be your guide to uncover the essential principles and basic challenges of the world of business. Over the course of two-week modules, we will delve into comprehending a new function of business and discover how these principles apply and become relevant in real-world business environments through an integrated course project to which each student contributes: a social impact business plan. The social impact business plan is a strategic document that outlines how a business intends to address a social or environmental challenge, while maintaining financial viability. We add to these practical areas an understanding of the contexts in which business operates - law, government, society, rapidly changing technology, new risks, the changing nature of careers, increasingly diverse workforces, and the broad global reach of business. This course will develop your capabilities in reading and critical thinking, oral and written communication, working in teams, information technology, academic self-assessment, and professional etiquette.

Cinema Studies [CINE] 121G: Space, Place, and Cinema. Prof. Linda Ai-Yun Liu. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00 – 2:50 and Wednesdays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 3616.

This first-year seminar explores the many different ways in which space and place are represented in cinema, while also teaching students how to closely observe and critically analyze films. Drawing from cinema history and criticism, it examines how films instill spaces with meaning and transform them into distinctive places. Through screenings of a broad array of films, we will tour a variety of cinemas from throughout the world and investigate such topics as the role of settings in film narratives, and contemporary experiences of displacement and marginalization.

Early Childhood and Human Development [ECHD] 101G. Young Children, Play, and Early Childhood Policy. Prof. Catherine Brayden-Callas. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:50. Class Number 3531.

This course explores the meaning and development of play, in our own lives and in the lives of young children. The course also critically examines contemporary debates about the role of play in early childhood programs, and explores the ways early childhood policy shapes children's experiences of play. Play is a major contributor to the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development of young children. Major theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of play will be examined. Topics to be covered in the course include: the role of play in social, emotional and cognitive development; learning through play; early childhood policy; and the influence of the political and cultural context in children's experiences of play.

Economics [ECON] 110G: Economic Ideas.

Section 1. Staff. Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:15 and Mondays 2:30 - 3:20. Class Number 2590.

Section 2. Prof. Marija Bingulac. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 – 6:45 and Thursdays 7:00 – 7:60. Class Number 14074.

This first-year seminar course presents basic economic concepts and tools of analysis in the context of current economic issues. Controversies over the distribution of income, the role of markets, pollution, or globalization are often addressed, although topics vary with the instructor. Students may receive credit for only one of ECON 100, ECON 110G or ECON 112G.

English [ENGL] 125G: Defining Freedom. Staff. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:00-8:50 and Mondays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 4152. Enrollment by placement.

By examining the issues of race, class, and gender, participants look at what freedom has meant to different people in the United States. They are also asked to reflect on and

write about their personal definitions of freedom, and to broaden and deepen the understanding they bring to their own historical situations.

English [ENGL] 126G: Aging and Wisdom. Staff. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:40. Class Number 4151. Enrollment by placement.

We will examine varied historical, cross-cultural, and literary views on aging and wisdom. Through a wide range of texts and genres, a visit to a nursing home, and an interview with an octogenarian, we will take an in-depth look at the way individuals, societies and families deal with and view the elderly, death, and dying. We will analyze the causes and effects of these attitudes and how they relate to social and political expectations, policies, and changes. **Enrollment by Placement.**

English [ENGL] 127G: Food Matters. Staff. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:50. Class Number 2461. Enrollment by Placement.

Course Description: Why does food matter? In this class we will explore our relationship to food and the role we play in the complex food system. We will read a selection of texts from a variety of genres as we examine different views on the meaning of food, food consumption, production, and sustainability. With the help of the readings and class materials, we will reconsider the ways in which we think about food and the associations we have with food, and we will carefully reflect on the implications of our food choices and our responsibilities as consumers in the complex food system. We also conduct research, both using library resources and first-hand field research. The assignments in this course are designed to provide you with experience in the following seven capabilities: *careful reading, clear writing, critical thinking, use of information literacy, teamwork, oral presentation, and academic self-assessment.* **Enrollment by Placement.**

English [ENGL] 181G: Literature and the Visual Arts. Prof. Samantha Regan. Tuesdays and Thursday 4:00 – 5:40. Class Number 1087.

In this course, we will connect literature (including short stories, poetry, plays, and graphic novels) to visual art (including paintings, film, and multimedia work on the internet). We will forge these connections using the theme of “identity,” paying close attention to how identity is created through characters, plot, imagery, color, movement, and space. How does literature and the visual arts attempt to represent the self as both an interior and exterior identity? How can we (or can we ever?) represent the elusive workings of the self? How can art capture both the mind (our intellect) and heart (our emotions)? In working with the various versions, adaptations, and interpretations of the selected works, we will identify differences and similarities among different art forms, as well as the consequences of creative choice and circumstance. We will familiarize ourselves with literary devices and terminology such as genre, narrative voice, and diction, and understand how our awareness of those elements contributes to our

appreciation and interpretation of what we read. We will engage in analytical, reflective, and creative writing about literature and visual art; ultimately, you will be able to articulate

your opinions of why a piece of writing and its visual interpretation "works" for you and why it does not. Hopefully, our study of the concept of "identity" will broaden its scope, and will apply both to the writers we study, and to you, as a reader, writer, and viewer shaping your own identity.

English [ENGL] 183G: Literature and Society--Experiencing Boston Culture, People, and Places.

Section 1: Prof. Joe Ramsey.

This section is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 *and* Thursdays 1:45-2:35. Class Number 1083.

At UMass Boston, we are lucky that our home is one of America's most culturally rich, dynamic, and innovative cities. This first-year course emphasizes the study of Boston culture, arts, literature, and history, featuring exciting field trips into (awesome!) Boston. We focus on generating analytical and creative approaches to studying--and experiencing--urban spaces, using Boston as our hands-on laboratory. The course captures the excitement and imagination that defines Boston, including experiences such as taking walking tours of the city, having guest lectures, and visiting museums and restaurants. We have many memorable trips planned, such a tour of the Boston Harbor Islands and our annual visit to Edgar Allen Poe's statue on Halloween! This double course counts as TWO courses; the courses are offered back-to-back and you will be registered for both, giving us the needed time for Thursday afternoon field trips.

Combined with a Composition 1 section (English 101 Section 60), which is offered between 11:00 and 12:15, the TWO courses give you credit for your required first-year Composition course and your required First-Year Seminar: To be added into the course, which is blocked from student view, contact Rachel Puopolo, CLA Program Coordinator: rachel.puopolo@umb.edu

For questions about the course or registering for it, contact the English Department during business hours: 617-287-6700. Students can continue to take a version of this double course in the spring (last year, word got out about how exciting the fall was, and more people asked to be in the spring course than fall!). Come join us as we go out into Boston and we bring Boston into our classroom!

English [ENGL] 183G: Literature and Society. Section 2. Prof. Kenneth Sunnerberg. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 3:40. Class Number 3065.

This is not a double "field trip" course connected with English 101.

This course is an introduction to the ways in which literary works represent a particular aspect of society, such as labor, education, the arts, war, and contemporary social topics. Close analytical reading of literary works with special attention to a writer's social milieu and choices of form (including figurative language and representations of speech), and how readers in varying social contexts have read and used the work.

Specifically, our focus on "Strange Tales and Stranger People" will examine stories that feature representations of characters, creatures, monsters, and places (from haunted houses to misrepresented borders) to understand how different literary forms are useful when reflecting on our societies. We will read a variety of texts such as fictional prose, the graphic novel, poetry and a play, as well as secondary source materials.

English [ENGL] 183G: Literature and Society--Experiencing Boston Culture, People, and Places. Section 3. Prof. Virginia Karlis. Class Number 3464.

This is an On-Line course, and not a double "field trip" course connected with English 101.

BOSTON: Beantown, The Hub of the Universe, The Athens of America, Red Sox Nation, Celtic Pride. In this course, we will read and discuss various literary works *about* Boston and *by* Bostonians. What makes this part of the world so uniquely independent yet wonderfully diverse? In 1773, history was made when Bostonians had their infamous Tea Party--boarding a British tea ship and tossing the tea into Boston Harbor in protest of unfair taxation. Let's see what else we can find about the spirit of our city and its people. To complement the selected literature, we will also study visual interpretations such as art works, movies, architecture--whatever can be identified as a visual adaptation or connection.

We will familiarize ourselves with literary devices and terminology such as genre, narrative voice and diction, and understand how our awareness of those elements contributes to our appreciation and interpretation of what we read. You will learn to talk and write about literature and be able to articulate your opinions of why a piece of writing or its visual interpretation "works" for you and why it does not. Hopefully, our study of "Boston" writings will lead to you becoming one as well.

English [ENGL] 185G: Literature and Film. Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:40. Prof. Penelope MacDonald. Class Number 3744.

An introductory examination of the relationship between moving pictures and the written word. Students will study how filmmakers and writers construct narrative, and how stories have been adapted across media. Other topics may include the following: the different ways that literature and film have dealt with the problem of realism, the use of iconic and symbolic modes, and the political implications of film.

English [ENGL] 186G. Exploring Thompson Island: On the Ground and in the Archives. Prof. Brittanie Weatherbie-Greco. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 -12:50 and Mondays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 3734.

Visible from UMass Boston's campus, Thompson Island is an extraordinary environment in which to explore a specific place and how it has evolved over time. Through readings, discussions, and boat trips guided by experts in relevant disciplines, this course explores ways of seeing, investigating and "knowing." Using a creative approach to history, the course engages with original documents and secondary sources to help answer the question: Why is Thompson Island worthy of our attention? The course reconstructs the Island's historic and educational uses from the political, social, cultural, and scientific artifacts of the past, and hones the skills of making meaning from them as well as of developing good practices of environmental and archival stewardship.

Throughout the course, students will be asked to reflect on their own relationship with their physical surroundings and the role they want to play as stewards of Boston Harbor, its Islands, and UMass Boston.

English [ENGL] 187G. Schooled: Rethinking Education. Prof. Susan Field. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:40. Class Number 3233.

Schools seem to be institutions full of contradictions: they are valued by society and blamed for our problems; they rely on theories and structures from the past to prepare students for their futures; and a school's purpose is to teach students how to think independently, but they follow rigid rule systems. It's no surprise that this system doesn't 'work' for every student. In this class we will think about these contradictions, read literature about learning, and consider what experts, theorists and journalists have to say about school. We will ask whether what we read can lead us to a deeper understanding of our own school experiences by examining themes such as race and racism, socioeconomics and poverty, and literacy and language. Working with critical concepts and terminology will enable us to reach a better understanding of how school 'works' in literature and in our real lives. Our goal will be to understand and maybe even offer a solution to one of the many 'issues' in education. Who better to take on such a challenge than someone with years of recent and relevant experience in this system, someone like you? This course values labor and practice; assessments include an analytical essay, a research project and a personal podcast project.

Environmental Science [ENVSCI] 179G: First-Year Seminar in Sustainability. Prof. Christian Rivera. Mondays and Wednesday 1:00 – 2:50. Class Number 4532.

This is a one semester four-credit First-Year Seminar in Sustainability. This course will focus on current issues in sustainability with an additional emphasis on student success and professional development. Through analysis of case studies, written reflections, and library-based papers, students will learn about the complexities of balancing the three pillars of sustainability: environment, economics, and social

justice. Students will also be exposed to campus offices and professional development tools and technologies. Successful completion of this course will fulfill a student's First-Year Seminar requirement which focuses on the capabilities of careful reading, clear writing, critical thinking, information technology, oral presentation, teamwork, and academic self-assessment.

Labor Studies [LABOR] 111G: Work and Society.

Section 1: Prof. Dominick Knowles. Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 - 12:15 and Thursdays 12:20 – 1:10. Class Number 2552.

Section 2: Prof. Alejandro Reuss. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Thursdays 1:50 – 2:40. Class Number 2980.

Section 3: Prof. Dominick Knowles. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-3:15 and Thursdays 3:20 – 4:10. Class Number 3136.

In this course, students will be actively engaged in learning about the interaction between the nature of work and the organization of society. How does the structure of work affect that nature of society? How does the nature of society affect the structure of work? What are the characteristics of a “good job”? How does the larger social context affect whether jobs are “good” or “bad”? How do issue of gender and race play out in the job market? Who gets what jobs and why? How do the gender and racial job issues connect to gender and racial issues in the larger society? Drawing on students' own work experiences, combined with readings, possibly films, and visits from activists in unions and other workers' organizations, the course will explore some of the challenges of race, gender, and class that arise in the workplace and interact with broad issues of social relations. A theme running through the course will be the extent of workers' power and their quest for social and economic justice. Moreover, this course is defined not simply by its subject matter but also by the emphasis that is placed on critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation. This emphasis is facilitated by the subject matter; by examining issues of controversy and conflict surrounding the work-society relationship, the course leads students to develop their critical skills in order to understand fully those issues. (Note: In discussions race, gender, and class, it is necessary to recognize that there are many differences within these groups as well as between them. When we talk about average differences between groups and make generalizations about differences between groups, it is important not to lose sight of the difference within each group.)

Music [MUSIC] 105G: Music of the World. Prof. Frederick Stubbs. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50. Class 1502.

This course examines the power and function of music in pan-human context. Drawing on a wide variety of sounds and texts, students investigate the relationship between

music and intellect, spirit, community, and environment. Special attention is given to how terms, concepts and values from various world musics illuminate and amplify our essential understanding of this human phenomenon. Please note: Students may receive credit either for this course or for MUSIC C110 (World Music), but not for both.

Philosophy [PHIL] 109G: Moral Debate in Society. Prof. Theodore Locke. MWF 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 11:00 – 11:50. Class Number 9989.

This course will study some contemporary problems of social ethics, particularly our obligations to others in need, abortion, human reproductive cloning, animal rights, affirmative action, pornography, and capital punishment, as well as ethical issues associated with the use of force: torture, war, and terrorism.

Philosophy [PHIL] 130G: Privacy. Prof. Brian Kiniry. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Mondays 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 3955.

This course examines the nature of privacy from a philosophical as well as legal perspective. To further this examination, we will be addressing some of the following questions. What is privacy? Do we have a right to privacy? Are such rights ever properly overridden given considerations of the public good or safety and security concerns? While focusing primarily on informational privacy rights, we will also be considering such disparate issues as the privacy rights of children, the privacy rights of non-human animals, and the privacy rights of the dead.

Political Science 113G: Issues of Political Identity at the Turn of the Century. Prof. Ursula Tafe. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 and Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 4605.

This course addresses the question of how and to what ends people choose a political identity, what it means to them, and what kinds of political commitments follow from it. Drawing on readings from across the disciplines, from fiction and the press, it examines political identity and some of the conflicts it can produce.

Psychology 131G. Personal & Social Determinants of Health: Disparity, Equity, & Health Promotion. Prof. Daria Boeninger. Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:45 and Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30. Class Number 3056.

This course introduces a multi-disciplinary understanding of health, with insights from Health Psychology and related fields. The course emphasizes skills in finding, evaluating, and communicating scientific information (especially pertaining to health), including becoming familiar with and assessing a range of AI tools. We will explore international, community-, and individual-level comparisons in health, discovering the significant controllable factors in health. Two core questions we tackle in the course are, What can we do as a country to promote the health of everyone across our country? And, What

can we do as individuals to make sure we experience the best physical and mental health we can?

Note that, as do all first-year seminars, this course involves group discussions, group work and presentations, and a research paper series and individual presentations. We also will have a range of guests visit us to share UMB resources, and to share about their health-related work or offer wellness-related workshops.

Religious Studies [RELSTY] 115G Religion, Politics, Sex, and Violence. Prof. Mia Applebaum.

Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 - 3:15 and Thursdays 1:00 - 1:50. Class Number 2785.

Section 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Wednesdays 8:00 – 8:50. Class Number 14364.

This course covers three themes--religion and public life, violence and non-violence, sexes and sexualities. Students become familiar with a range of major religious thinkers and formulate their own constructive positions. This course may count toward completion of the Study of Religion Program.

SEMINAR [SEMINR] 114G: Investigations Across the Curriculum

This course is offered in several sections and seven different versions:

Asian American Community Voices

Section 18: Prof. Pratna Kem. Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:15 and Mondays 2:30 - 3:20. Class Number 3741.

This course offers an introductory look into Asian American history, literature, and community.

Court Cases

Section 3: Prof. Mia Applebaum. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 - 10:50 and Mondays 11:00-11:50. Class Number 2455.

Section 7: Prof. Helen Lee. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 and Tuesdays 2:00 - 2:50. Class Number 2538.

Section 8: Prof. Andria Warren. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00 - 12:50 and Mondays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 2762.

Section 10: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 - 9:50 *and* Fridays 10:00 - 10:50. Class Number 3137.

Section 12: Prof. Andria Warren. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 - 10:50 *and* Fridays 11:00 - 11:50. Class Number 3296.

Section 15: Prof. Mia Applebaum. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 2:00 - 2:50 *and* Wednesdays 3:00 - 3:50. Class Number 3296.

Section 17: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 *and* Fridays 12:00 - 12:50. Class Number 3544.

This First Year Seminar is about arguments, in particular legal and related arguments that are used in courtrooms. We will study real criminal, civil, and constitutional cases, as documented on film and in courtroom transcripts, and academic and news articles. Via these documents, you will observe the words and actions of individual jurors, judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

These cases represent both just and unjust outcomes. In some cases, the criminal evidence for guilt may be ambiguous. In some, the judicial system may be inherently biased because of a particular judge or lawyer, or because of the constraints of the appeals process or the ways the justice system is funded. And in other cases, the system seems to protect our rights well. Come judge for yourself.

Exploring the Secrets of Success

Section 1: Prof. Eric Moschella. Tuesdays *and* Thursdays 12:30-1:45 *and* Tuesdays 2:00 – 2:50. Class Number 1624.

Success can be defined in many ways, yet achieving it is often elusive. This course is an investigation into success in its many definitions and the process of achieving it. Based in the research and theory of learning and behavior, students will explore success from the smallest of contributing behaviors to the broadest societal definitions. Through the reading of autobiographies and research in psychology students will explore and reflect on the “how” and “why” of their goals, ultimately arriving at their own personal definition and formula for success, at UMB and beyond!

Mind-Body Connection

Section 14: Prof. Bryan Williams. Mondays *and* Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15 *and* Wednesdays 2:30 - 3:20. Class Number 3295.

How do the body and mind interact? We will investigate this question through observations of ourselves, through observations and interviews of others, and

through the course's readings and library research. Along the way we will learn about how people deal with physical and emotional challenges and how some people seem more resilient while others may become more resilient. For assignments there will be journal entries, formal essays, and frequent presentations, often in groups. Meditation and/or physical exercise will be required as well. The exercises will be adaptable to short- or long-term physical limitations.

News Media and the War on Terror

Section 4: Prof. Jason Hinkley. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:45 and Tuesdays 2:00 – 2:50. Class Number 2457.

Section 8: Staff. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00-12:50 and Mondays 1:00-1:50. Class Number 2762.

Section 13: Prof. Jason Hinkley. Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 - 10:45 and Tuesdays 11:00 - 11:50. Class Number 3294.

This course focuses on the ways in which news media frame events, using reporting on the 9/11/01 attacks and the "Global War on Terror" (GWOT) as key initial examples. As with other wars, the White House had to "sell" this to the public. The media played a pivotal role in the buying, selling, and rejecting of the GWOT "sales pitch".

To explore questions such as: How are news reports always somewhat distorted, but not always lies? If all representations by the news media are distorted, are some nevertheless "better" than others? In which contexts do government officials, journalists, and citizens unthinkingly frame news? we will explore news reports about 9/11/01 along with artistic and scholarly responses to them. We will then explore how other important events since 9/11/01 have been framed by the news media, artists, and scholars through interdisciplinary research.

Reality and the Americas

Section 2: Prof Meesh McCarthy. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00 – 9:50 and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50. Class Number 2454.

Section 9: Prof Meesh McCarthy. Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:50. Class Number 2784.

Section 16: Prof Meesh McCarthy. Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 - 12:50. Class Number 3541.

This course is an opportunity to examine the real world as a scholar. First, we will explore new ways of viewing the reality of the past. We will then investigate how new technology is reshaping what is considered to be accurate American history, how social

networking is reshaping what we consider to be real connections with others, and how infotainment, technology, and advertisement have reconstructed what we think people in the Americas should and actually do. We will use materials drawn from various disciplines (such as history, psychology, and media-communication studies) to develop our definitions of reality, fact, truth, fiction, fantasy, myth, virtual space, and identity that apply to our academic and other experiences.

Sense of Place

Section 5: Prof. Gina Tigri. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-5:15 and Tuesdays 5:30-6:20. Class Number 2462.

What makes a place meaningful? This seminar explores the concept of sense of place, examining how people develop meaning, connection, and belonging in relation to the environments around them. Drawing on perspectives from multiple disciplines, students investigate how personal experiences, social relationships, and physical environments shape the significance people attach to places. By examining both familiar and unfamiliar places, the course considers how relationships between people and places influence identity, community, and everyday life.

Sociology [SOCIOLOGY] 110G: Insiders/Outsiders. Prof. Anna Beckwith.

Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 – 9:15 and Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:20. Class Number 10288.

Section 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15 and Thursdays 10:00 - 10:50. Class Number 10289.

What often makes it possible to justify and practice oppression is the division of groups of people into outsiders/insiders based on their gender, “race”/ethnicity, class, age, sexuality, religion, nationality, belief, ability, or others. Such “Us” vs. “Them” dualisms give oppressors the justification to organize social (economic, cultural, political) structures and interactions in such a way that the free development of their own creative powers comes at the expense of preventing others from developing the same in themselves. Central to what makes insider/outsider mentality and divisions possible is the deeper dualism of self vs. society. The central purpose of this course is to go beyond such an insider/outsider mentality and lifestyle by developing our sociological imaginations, a way of looking at the world and ourselves that helps us understand how our personal troubles and larger public issues have shaped and influenced one another, and can in turn shape and influence one another in non-oppressive ways. Using a variety of readings augmented by selected films, in this course we will explore how sociology can help us understand how society works itself out in our everyday lives, and how we can become better persons and help create better societies, thereby pursuing what a

liberal arts education promises to do: to help individuals freely develop their creative powers and seek the same for others in the world. Student assignments will consist of engaged attendance and participation in discussions, shared reports and presentations, and a term paper developed in multiple drafts, cultivating students' critical sociological imaginations by exploring the link between their personal troubles and ever globalizing public issues.

Sociology [SOCIO] 120G: Sociology of Popular Culture

Section 2: Prof. Daniel Finn. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 – 8:50 *and* Mondays 9:00-9:50. Class Number 10291.

Section 3: Prof. Daniel Finn. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00-10:50 *and* Wednesdays 9:00-9:50. Class Number 10292.

Section 4: Prof. Jyoti Sinha. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 – 11:50 *and* Mondays 12:00 – 12:50. Class Number 10293.

Section 5: Prof. Jyoti Sinha. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 – 1:50 *and* Wednesdays 12:00 – 12:50. Class Number 10294.

Section 6: Prof. Linda Liu. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 12:00-12:50 *and* Mondays 1:00 – 1:50. Class Number 10295.

Section 7: Prof. Skylar Rathvon. Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:15 *and* Tuesdays 5:20 – 6:10. Course number 14363.

What is popular culture? How do mass media and popular culture help us to make sense of our world, identities, and relationships? Do we organize our lives around media or do media shape our lives? Do media technologies make us happier or better citizens in a democratic society? This course will address such questions by applying various theoretical lenses to artifacts and visual messages in media and popular culture, with a primary emphasis on developing a critical awareness of contemporary mass media (radio, film, photography, music, television, fashion, video games, the internet) and their impact on culture.

You will examine your own conceptions and consumption of media through (1) readings and group tasks that engage and challenge your perspective on our cultural landscape, (2) a service-learning project that integrates the local community with your understanding of course material, and (3) writing assignments that allow you to apply the theories and concepts you learn to your own analysis of popular culture. Access to a camera is required.

Spanish [SPAN] 160G: Exile: The Latin American Experience. Prof. Nino Keadze. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:45 *and* Thursdays 2:00 – 2:50. Class Number 10333.

Written from afar, Latin American literatures of exile offer alternative representation of home and nation. This course examines the impact of exile on literary writing and personal and collective identities. Topics include exile in literature/film, the imagined communities abroad, and exile and its impact on the global community.

This course asks what does it mean to be in exile—and the related questions of self, language, sense of at-homeness, and the possibility/impossibility of return—by focusing on a selection of works (i.e., essays, novels, poems, short stories) representative of the experiences of exile that took place in the context of military dictatorships (in Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina).

Theater Arts [THRART] 108G: Plays from Page to Stage. Prof. Amanda Fallon. Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15 *and* Thursdays 12:20 – 1:10.

Playwrights create works that get produced. How? By whom? Participants study how directors develop concepts; how collaboration with designers, actors, and technicians bears fruit; and how productions are promoted. The course also examines the rehearsal process, and looks behind the scenes to where sets and costumes get built, lights are hung, and tech rehearsals begin and build to opening night.

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies [WGS] 120G: Women and Men in Families. Prof. Lynne Benson.

Section 1: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:00 – 8:50 *and* Mondays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 2600.

Section 2: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50 *and* Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50. Class Number 3838.

Has feminism destroyed the traditional family? Would marriages last longer if women and men shared family responsibilities equally? Does society still need to make major changes if we want both women's rights and stable families? Participants read, discuss, debate, and make up their own minds on these issues. We will also discuss how families deal with various crises, such as death, divorce and shifts in their economic status, as well as the impact of the COVID pandemic. This course may count toward the major and the minor in Women's Studies.