

University of Minnesota Morris

First Year Seminar
2004

IS 1001, First Year Seminar, is organized in sections of 15 students, and is designed to be an introduction to liberal arts at UMM. Early in the semester, all sections participate in a common event. They then move on to explore their specific topic as listed inside this brochure. Finally, all sections come together near the end of the semester in a celebration called Jamboree, where the different sections share what they've done and learned through posters, plays, games, and other performances.

Pick four to five topics that interest you. Your registration advisor will then help you pick a section based on those choices that also works with the scheduling of your other courses.

Class #	Section	Instructor	StartTime	EndTime	Days	Room
38593	1	Schuman	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	MW	Hum 105
38594	2	Roberts	9:15 AM	10:05 AM	MW	Sci 3665
38595	3	Rudney	10:30 AM	11:20 AM	MW	Ed 211
38596	4	Larson	10:30 AM	11:20 AM	MW	HFA 15
38597	5	Rudney	11:45 AM	12:35 PM	MW	Ed 211
38598	6	Benson	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	MW	Sci 3665
38599	7	Roberts	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	MW	Hum 12
38600	8	Eisinger	2:15 PM	3:05 PM	MW	HFA 2
38601	9	Gross	2:15 PM	3:05 PM	MW	Hum 105
38602	10	Benson	2:15 PM	3:05 PM	MW	Sci 3665
38603	11	Heyman	2:15 PM	3:05 PM	MW	Hum 12
38604	12	Gross	3:30 PM	4:20 PM	MW	Hum 105
38605	13	Heyman	3:30 PM	4:20 PM	MW	Hum 12
38606	14	Eisinger	4:45 PM	5:35 PM	MW	HFA 2
38607	15	Ahern	8:00 AM	8:50 AM	TTh	CS 128
38608	16	Ahern	9:00 AM	9:50 AM	TTh	CS 128
38609	17	McPhee	9:00 AM	9:50 AM	TTh	Sci 2185
38610	18	Schwaller	10:00 AM	10:50 AM	TTh	Sci 3665
38908	19	T. Anderson	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	TTh	Sci 3665
38909	20	Hodgson	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	TTh	HFA 185
38910	21	Angell/Conner	11:00 AM	11:50 AM	TTh	Hum 105
38911	22	T. Anderson	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	TTh	Sci 3665
38912	23	Schultz	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	TTh	HFA 125
38913	24	Minton	12:00 PM	12:50 PM	TTh	Hum 105
38914	25	Schultz	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	TTh	HFA 125
38915	26	McPhee	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	TTh	Sci 3665
38916	27	Minton	1:00 PM	1:50 PM	TTh	Hum 105
38917	28	Kuchenreuther	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	TTh	Sci 2185
38918	29	Hodgson	2:00 PM	2:50 PM	TTh	HFA 185
38919	30	Kuchenreuther	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	TTh	Sci 2185
38920	31	Cotter	3:00 PM	3:50 PM	TTh	Sci 1030

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation.

The Good Leader

What characterizes a good leader and how does one develop such traits? J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* offers one exploration of this theme. Good leadership is also a central goal of liberal education. But how is this concept bound by gender and culture? After seeking agreement on the good leader according to Tolkien, the seminar will explore statements from other cultures and religions, such as Lakota, Arab, Hindu, China, Zulu, and in light of gender. Students will pose their own definitions from these variations.

38607	Section 15	TTh	8:00-8:50	CS 128	<u>Bert Ahern - History</u>
38608	Section 16	TTh	9:00-9:50	CS 128	ahernwh@umn.edu

Insects and Human Culture

The influence of insects on human society extends far beyond the realm of science. Insects inspire artists, musicians and writers. They are revered as religious symbols and used as metaphors for what we fear most. They spread deadly disease and have influenced the course of human history. In some cultures insects are a prized culinary delicacy. And, they are the most abundant and diverse group of animals on our planet. Through readings, discussion, short writing assignments and student designed projects we will investigate ways in which insects intersect and influence human culture.

38908	Section 19	TTh	11:00-11:50	Sci 3665	<u>Tracey Anderson - Biology</u>
38911	Section 22	TTh	12:00-12:50	Sci 3665	anderstm@umn.edu

Finding Power Within: Dance and the Martial Arts

Internal power is a common theme in dance and martial arts. We will study dance styles of the West, Africa, and South America. Martial arts study will focus on the comprehensive Korean martial art of Kuk Sool Won as well as major styles of both Asia and the West. In addition to background reading and discussion, classes will emphasize study and practice of physical techniques. Requirements include a presentation, a performance assignment, and a short paper.

38910	Section 21	TTh	11:00-11:50	Hum 105	<u>Angell - AAC/Conner – English</u> angfa@umn.edu connerm@umn.edu
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Global Perspectives on Children's Wellbeing

Are the world's children thriving and growing up to become productive adults? We will examine worldwide data for a variety of problems (e.g., malnutrition, illness, lack of access to safe water, inadequate education, exploitation, violence, etc.). How prevalent are these threats in diverse regions, in what ways do they affect children's development, and what are success stories in addressing these problems? The course will include readings, films, Web research, and discussions. Students will prepare findings as Web pages and presentation, so instruction will include basic HTML and Web design.

38598	Section 6	MW	1:00-1:50	Sci 3665	<u>Katherine Benson – Psychology</u>
38602	Section 10	MW	2:15-3:05	Sci 3665	bensonka@umn.edu

Out of Africa – The Peopling of Europe, Asia, and the Americas

Genetic evidence indicates modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) had their origin in Africa. This course will explore the geologic and climatic influences on human migration to Europe, Asia, and ultimately the Americas. We will also discuss changes that resulted from this migration, the end of Neanderthal, new technologies, and the development of racial variations.

38920	Section 31	TTh	3:00-3:50	Sci 1030	<u>James Cotter – Geology</u> cotterjf@umn.edu
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Exploring Whiteness to Combat Racism

This class will be based on a series of readings that will help students to address such issues as: race as a social construct; the way we experience racial categories in daily life; white privilege; blame, guilt, and responsibility in racial dialogue; the colorblind ideal (is it valid or not?); and what it means to be a non-racist white person. Students of all racial identities are welcome in this class.

38600	Section 8	MW	2:15-3:05	HFA 2	<u>Joel Eisinger – Art History</u>
38606	Section 14	MW	4:45-5:35	HFA 2	eisingj@umn.edu

Easter Bunnies, Tom Turkeys and Bad Santas: American History through its Holiday Traditions

Why did Americans a century and a half ago begin dragging pine trees into their homes at Christmas time? Why in the 1930s did the nation's children discover trick-or-treating? This class takes a critical look at American cultural history by examining changes in the nation's holiday traditions. It concentrates on both the bright side--holidays as a celebration of family and diversity--and the dark side—the way in which American holidays represent a strange brew of religion, politics and commercialism. Materials include history books, holiday music and movies.

38601	Section 9	MW	2:15-3:05	Hum 105	<u>Stephen Gross – History</u>
38604	Section 12	MW	3:30-4:20	Hum 105	grosssj@umn.edu

Sex (and Race and Class) and the City

Why do we have downtowns with skyscrapers? Why do people live in sprawling suburbs and shop in malls? Why do folks drive hours to shop at places like WalMart? What's happened to our public places? In fact, why do we go to cities at all anymore, since everything they once offered--work, housing, entertainment, shopping--can be gotten elsewhere, more cheaply and more conveniently? In this class, we'll look at the development of American cities, big and small, to see how processes of industrialization, suburbanization, sprawl, transportation, shopping, and entertainment have shaped and been shaped along the lines of gender, race, ethnicity, and class. We'll read some classic essays on the development of cities, as well as play some urban simulation games, and possibly make a field trip to Minneapolis.

38603	Section 11	MW	2:15-3:05	Hum 12	<u>Richard Heyman - English</u>
38605	Section 13	MW	3:30-4:20	Hum 12	heymanr@umn.edu

What You Should Know, but Were Born Too Late

There's more to our speech expressions than "Hey dude!" We will examine common and uncommon expressions, media, and personalities for origin and meaning. What was radio like in the 30's and 40's-- what can we learn from those programs and their particular speech characteristics? Who were the popular music groups of the 40's, 50's, and 60's? "Deep six that junk"—whaaaat? Who was The Shadow? We will look for terms, idioms, customs, and practices from the past few centuries that have found their way into modern times but may have lost their connection with the past.

38909	Section 20	TTh	11:00-11:50	HFA 185	<u>Ken Hodgson – Music</u>
38918	Section 29	TTh	2:00-2:50	HFA 185	hodgsnkd@umn.edu

Why We Eat What We Eat

We will consider the diverse culinary traditions of the world, seeking to understand the biological, historical and cultural origins of eating patterns in the U.S. and in other regions of the world. Our explorations will include readings, lectures and discussions, a project in which students document and analyze their own culinary traditions, as well as opportunities to sample the aromas and flavors that characterize the world's major cuisines. We also will examine some current food issues, such as the politics of food, the safety of genetically modified organisms, the movement towards locally grown food, and the facts and myths surrounding nutritional recommendations. Please note that this course will require several evening meetings in lieu of regularly scheduled class periods.

38917	Section 28	TTh	2:00-2:50	Sci 2185	<u>Margaret Kuchenreuther - Biology</u>
38919	Section 30	TTh	3:00-3:50	Sci 2185	kuchenma@umn.edu

Finders/Keepers: The Significance of Found Objects and Collecting in the Visual Arts

Contemporary artists have been using found objects in work that lend clues to the identity of a place, its people, and their identity as makers. Like archaeologists piecing together the detritus of our surroundings, we can learn as much about ourselves from what we discard or lose in our daily routines. Students will do various exercises that explore themes of collecting and found items, approaches to collecting and arranging, and will compare the results to the ways in which artists use those conventions in their work.

38596 Section 4 MW 10:30-11:20 HFA 15

Jess Larson – Studio Art
larsenje@umn.edu

Roots Music: Why, Where, and How?

Films such as *O brother, where art thou?* and albums such as Moby's *Play* have both reflected and helped increase interest in American roots music. This broad heading includes an incredible diversity of styles and types, including (among others) blues, hillbilly and country, cajun and zydeco, gospel, and good old polka music. In these FYS sections we will begin to explore the history and sources of this diversity, as well as its impact on music and culture today. Our final project will include an opportunity to produce a radio show at KUMM.

38609 Section 17 TTh 9:00-9:50 Sci 2185

Nic McPhee – Computer Science

38915 Section 26 TTh 1:00-1:50 Sci 3665

mcphee@umn.edu

Frankenstein: The Book, The Legend, The Monster, The Icon

In the 185 years since its inception, Shelley's story has inspired countless adaptations, movies, spoofs, and even Halloween costumes. This seminar will begin with Shelley's book, concentrating on its major themes, and move on to an examination of the movies and other works that have been based on it. *Frankenstein* speaks to some of our deepest anxieties about science, technology, sexuality, and those who are marked as the "other." Our mission is to explore why this story has been so influential and how different cultures have adapted and responded to this story in radically different ways, based on their own fears and concerns.

38913 Section 24 TTh 12:00-12:50 Hum 105

Gretchen Minton – English

38916 Section 27 TTh 1:00-1:50 Hum 105

mintong@umn.edu

Mathematics across cultures

We will study how sophisticated mathematics has arisen independently in different societies. The focus will be on non-western societies, with China, India, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas each given some attention. Possible topics include: the mathematical nature of common games; life stories of prominent contributors to mathematical knowledge; transmission of ideas between cultures; specific instances of mathematical results first discovered in non-western societies.

38594 Section 2 MW 9:15-10:05 Sci 3665

Dave Roberts – Mathematics

38599 Section 7 MW 1:00-1:50 Hum 12

roberts@umn.edu

School and Diversity

Want to know how the elements of diversity impact learning and life chances? Students will examine school issues relating to race, gender, socio-economic status, language, religion, and ability. Course assignments will allow students to focus on an aspect of diversity particularly meaningful to them.

38595 Section 3 MW 10:30-11:20 Ed 211

Gwen Rudney – Education

38597 Section 5 MW 11:45-12:35 Ed 211

rudneygl@umn.edu

A Family Drama

Tolstoy said, "All happy families resemble one another, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." This course will consider the concept of "families" in drama, concentrating on both their common and unique qualities. We will read plays and view films that encompass a diverse range of periods and cultures, as well as various configurations of family, ranging from the traditional nuclear unit to alternative notions of "family." You'll also be able to explore these ideas in action by engaging in projects that allow you to express yourself through improvisation and theatrical production. Expect a few video screenings and group project meetings to be scheduled outside regular class time.

38912 Section 23 TTh 12:00-12:50 HFA 125 Ray Schultz – Theatre Arts
38914 Section 25 TTh 1:00-1:50 HFA 125 schultzr@umn.edu

Peter's Great City

Perhaps the only major city in the world which was wholly the invention of one person (Czar Peter the Great), St. Petersburg, Russia has just celebrated its 300th birthday. We will survey the history of the city itself, from St. Petersburg to Petrograd to Leningrad and back now to St. Petersburg; the fascinating biographies of its two defining personalities, Peter and his granddaughter Catherine the Great; and some of the culture (literature, art, music, architecture) which came from the city. Depending upon student interest, figures such as Nabokov, Tchaikovsky and Dostoyevsky can be studied, but we may also look at topics such as the Siege of Leningrad during WWII or the palaces of the czars (and their reconstruction today) or urban architecture.

38593 Section 1 MW 8:00-8:50 Hum 105 Sam Schuman – Chancellor/English
schumans@umn.edu

The Colombia Exchange

When the peoples of the Old World arrived in the Americas, they brought with them diseases, crops, and animals which were unknown in the new environment. When the Old World peoples returned "home," they took with them New World crops and animals unknown in the Old. This seminar will look at the process whereby the culture of the Old World (human culture along with diseases, foodstuffs, and animals) encountered the culture of the New. We will look at pathogens, crops, and animals, as well as the human aspects of this cultural exchange in order to get a better idea of how cultures interact with one another.

38610 Section 18 TTh 10:00-10:50 Sci 3665 John F. Schwaller – VC and LAAS
schwaller@umn.edu