Date: August 27, 2014, 9:00 AM

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Honors seminars are all published in the Schedule of Classes under IDSC. Honors seminars all have a course number of IDSC 480. The word "Honors" or an abbreviation of honors, such as "HONR," is at the beginning of the course title.

Please contact Kathy Tischler at ktischler@stthomas.edu if you have any questions.

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From ancient texts to the present day, writers have been interested in the intersection of nature and spirituality. This course looks at works from Eastern (Buddhism, Daoism) and Western (primarily Christianity) traditions and compares and contrasts them.

Should scientists be environmental activists? Should non-scientist citizens participate in environmental-decision making about the chemicals we encounter each day? This course integrates a study of the environmental movement and topics from environmental toxicology to examine the relationship between science and activism around issues of environmental and human health. We will begin the course by examining arguments for and against both scientists and citizens engaging in activism to influence environmental policy about environmental toxins. We will then explore a series of case studies to apply these general arguments to specific issues, people, and outcomes.

Evolutionary psychology addresses how human behavior and thought processes have been shaped and molded by natural and sexual selection. The roots of the evolutionary perspective in psychology date back to the late nineteenth century, when Charles Darwin’s cousin, Sir Francis Galton, first speculated about the heredity of human psychological traits and behavioral tendencies. It was not until the mid-1990s, however, that the evolutionary perspective began to gain a foothold in the mainstream discipline of psychology. Today it is embraced by some as a progressive and illuminating perspective that recognizes our animal natures—while others, who are unconvinc ed (or upset), by the notion that human behaviors have their roots in our biology, view it with skepticism and hostility. In this class, we will address contemporary evolutionary psychology perspectives on the following topics:

- Mate Attraction & Selection, Mating Strategies
- Sexual Jealousy & Sexual Violence
- Parent-Child Interaction & Relationships
- Altruism & Helping Behavior
- Religion, Spirituality, and Morality

*In the distant future I see open fields for far more important researches. Psychology will be based on a new foundation, that of the necessary acquirement of each mental power and capacity by gradation.*

Pro- and Anti-environmental Behavior
While doing so, we will consider the unique challenges facing evolutionary psychologists as they generate theory and design studies using this controversial approach.

IDSC 480-04 (CRN 42978) – Honors International Film & Music
Fall 2014 – R 15:25 PM-17:00 PM  Location: BEC LL07
Faculty: Chris Kachian (Music) and Jim Snapko (English)

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the narrative connections between film and music. Films from all over the world will be addressed. The course begins with an introduction to film: its history and practice. Instructors provide the theoretical perspective to film, e.g. the language filmmakers use to create meaning - through editing, cinematography, acting, screenplay - coupled with examining key characteristics of orchestration, and the concept of sound as “interpretation”. Some basic questions we will consider are: What do we learn about a filmmaker's creative decision making through the marriage of film and music? How does the film score reinforce, amplify, identify, or fortify the film? What ideas or expressions are presented and prolonged with the music? How does music enhance these ideas? What issues are in conflict or opposition? How are they illuminated or resolved in the music? How does that influence the ongoing story? How does the musical language reflect the time period/setting of the film? How is it characteristic or unique? How does music reinforce, amplify, identify, and fortify the film? What film techniques are used to express the ideas and themes in the film without the aid of the music?

While there are many theoretical and critical approaches to analyzing foreign films and their music it is important to keep in mind that American cinema does play a role in investigating works from other nations. Simply put, Hollywood has been the dominant force in film for almost 100 years and most countries, if not all, are influenced by American made movies. That said, it's also important to analyze these films on their own aesthetic terms.

This course operates on the belief that formal analysis is a skill that is best developed through application and discussion. We will often focus the class around a step-by-step analysis of specific sequences, based upon mutual brainstorming as the primary teaching method. Students will be required to write and present on a relevant film and music research topic at the end of the semester.

IDSC 480-05 (CRN 42979) – Leadership Buffet
Fall 2014 – W 15:25-17:00 PM        Location: OEC 311
Faculty: Michael Klein (Justice & Peace Studies), Damon Shoholm (adjunct faculty member)

The Twin Cities are home to vibrant neighborhoods and dynamic examples of community-based leadership. Our seminar will explore leadership through the framework of food: cooking metaphors, community gardens visits, and meetings with local leaders in neighborhood restaurants. Students will gain insights, skills and inspiration as we eat our way through examples of diverse community leadership.

NOTE! The Foreign Experience seminar is only available to students who are returning from Study Abroad and who attended the seminar prior to leaving for Study Abroad. Please email Dr. Muse directly to enroll in this seminar.

This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder as registration is restricted to students returning from Study Abroad and controlled by the faculty member.

IDSC 480-06 (CRN 40213) – The Foreign Experience
Fall 2014 – Time to be determined       Location: Amy Muse’s Office – JRC 333
Specific class dates will be assigned prior to fall semester.
Faculty: Amy Muse (English)

This seminar, which students take both before they depart for study abroad and upon their return, gives Aquinas Scholars who study abroad the opportunity to 1) examine ways of approaching, understanding, and articulating the impact of foreign experience; 2) practice the techniques of observation, exploration,
and self-reflection exemplified in the materials studied; and 3) communicate the particular discoveries that resulted from their experience abroad.

Please note: You must have attended this seminar before going abroad. The Fall 2014 meetings of the Foreign Experience Seminar will be determined in the near future. Questions? Contact Amy Muse ammuse@stthomas.edu.

IDSC 480-07 (CRN 42980) – Music and Meditation: Pathways to Transformative Learning
Fall 2014 – T 13:30-15:10 Location: BEC 111
Faculty: Vanessa Cornett-Murtada (Music - Undergraduate) and William Brendel (Organization Development - Graduate)

Most students will acknowledge that they feel distracted throughout much of the day, while others will... squirrel! Since modern life is riddled with distraction and uncertainty, many life situations require a deeper, self-oriented form of learning. Transformative learning occurs when students are invited to observe where and how their mind wanders. Mindfulness, non-judgmental awareness of the present moment, is a particularly useful practice for developing this skill. While awareness is most often trained on the breath, students in this class will use music as a focal point for mindfulness practice. Music can be used as a metaphor for life, with its ups and downs, unanticipated twists and turns.

This course will explore the concept of deep listening in a variety of contexts. Deep listening can be defined as focused, mindful attention to the widest array of sounds available at any given time. One may distinguish this sort of intentional listening from the involuntary, passive listening that most people engage in throughout the day. Deep listening may be applied to any type of music, the sounds of daily life, nature, even one’s own thoughts! This sort of focused attention is a form of mindfulness meditation, which can be used to foster creativity and self-discovery. Inclusive, secular meditation practice is a powerful tool for developing awareness. Class discussions, readings, meditation assignments, music listening assignments, and a final project will help students better understand the relationship of music, contemplative practices, and transformative learning. Students will be expected to cultivate a regular meditation practice throughout the duration of the course.

IDSC 480-08 (CRN 42981) – Experimental Seminar- Better Dating Through Marketing
Fall 2014 – M 13:30-15:10 Location: JRC 481
Faculty: James Heyman (Marketing)

NOTE: This seminar DOES NOT appear in Class Finder as registration for an experimental seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact James Heyman directly if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

For economists dating is a marketplace, for psychologists it’s a way to fulfill needs, for anthropologists a manifestation of the surrounding culture, for counselors a potential den of violence, and for some a route to true love. All of these contribute to make dating a complex interpersonal endeavor that involves multiple decisions before, during, and after the date.

In this seminar we will analyze dating and develop decision models based on microeconomics, anthropology, psychology, marketing, and consumer behavior that will help participants better understand and optimize their dating decisions. No background in these academic areas is required, as we will develop the necessary information as required by the class. A modicum of dating experience is recommended.

Students who have completed Love, Sex, and Friendship (CATH 234) can take this seminar without fear of duplicating the material.