All students must complete a First Year Seminar in the fall or spring of their first year. In no instance will the cap for a FY Seminar exceed 20 students.

**ART 150 (Art) Blasphemy & Devotion: Religion and Spirituality in the Works of Van Gogh, Warhol, Kahlo, and other Modern and Contemporary Artists and Architects (Hage)**

Modern and contemporary artists and architects have engaged the many intersections between art and religions, and unprecedented globalization has helped spur dialogs among a wide range of creeds and has called attention to artists’ (sometimes controversial) visual responses to religion worldwide. This course also considers debates raised in recent exhibitions and scholarly texts. Artists studied include VanGogh, Warhol and Kahlo. Although some emphasis is placed on the relationship between art and Catholicism, students also analyze creative responses to many faiths, including other forms of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.

**ASC 150 (Actuarial Science) Forecasting the Future- the Mathematics of Risk (DeLiberato)**

This first-year seminar course provides an introduction to the techniques actuaries use to forecast the future and quantify risk. Selected topics include time series analysis and statistical correlation, credibility theory, pricing insurance products and risk load, portfolio theory and asset allocation management. Students are also required to make a presentation on a topic of current interest in actuarial science. The course is taught in a computer classroom and students make extensive use of Microsoft Excel in the development of mathematical models.

**CSC 150 (Computer Science) Joy of Computing (Krueger)**

This First Year Seminar course for major and non-majors will introduce the basics of computer programming using Python. Through programming practice the students will gain an appreciation of computer programs and algorithm development. This course will also review current technologies such as Cybersecurity, Internet and Artificial Intelligence. We will look at how these technologies affect society and how we can respond to take advantage of opportunities they may provide. Through in-class exercises and out-of-class assignments, the course leads students to learn how to embrace technology thoughtfully and understand how they can be prepared for the changes technology causes on society and many careers.

**ENG 150 FY1 Salinger, Heller, Vonnegut (Haslam)**

This course explores novels and short stories by three major twentieth-century American writers: J. D. Salinger (1919-2010), Joseph Heller (1923-1999), and Kurt Vonnegut (1922-2007). In the first three-quarters of the course, we shall examine the distinctively literary qualities of their key works and seek to establish why these works have achieved national and global acclaim. In the final quarter of the course, drawing upon Paul Boyer’s *American History* and Shane Salerno’s documentary *Salinger*, we shall investigate the intellectual challenges of validly locating Salinger’s, Heller’s, and Vonnegut’s works in the context of twentieth-century American history, especially with respect to both World War Two (in which all three authors served) and the immediate post-war decades. By reading, thinking, talking, writing, and presenting about these authors and their works, students will reach a better understanding of
twentieth-century American literature and history. They will also improve their academic skills in responsible research methods, library use, reading, discussion, presentation, and writing (formal and informal, creative and critical).

**ENG 150 A. I. in Fiction, Fact, Film (Parker)**

As Daniel Dennett queries, “If a cleverly designed robot could (seem to) tell us of its inner life (could utter all the appropriate noises in the appropriate contexts), would it be right to admit it to the charmed circle?”—that is, as assuming it has what we call consciousness. In the realm of speculative fiction, writers and filmmakers have explored the nature of consciousness by focusing on such “cleverly designed robots” As we have entered the computer age, they have also gone beyond the cleverly designed robots, speculating about the nature of computer intelligence. In this course, we will examine fictional narratives and films that foreground artificial intelligence in order to explore the nature of consciousness. Concurrently, we will read philosophical and scientific texts that discuss the issues of consciousness and artificial intelligence.


**Possible Films:** *Blade Runner*; “The Measure of a Man” (*Star Trek: TNG*); “The Devil’s Hand” (*Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*); *Ghost in the Shell*; *Her*; *Ex Machina*; selected excerpts

**FIN 150 Finance through the Movies (Brady)**

This first year seminar is designed to introduce students to the field of finance through the lens of movies. Students will gain an understanding of a breadth of topics including corporate form of business entity, corporate governance, and role of a corporation in a society. We will also cover stock trading and role of information in stock trading. Finally we will discuss value creation through mergers and divestures.

*Note:* We will be watching "R" rated movies in the class. Please understand that these movies may contain uncomfortable and offensive material. Some of the movies may contain violence, profane language, drug use and/or sexual content. Even if one is comfortable with the material in home or theater setting, they still may find uncomfortable in a classroom setting.

**FMK 150 (Food Marketing) Exploring History, Culture & Future: Eating (Williamson)**

This course covers the importance of food to the development of civilization. The first half of the course will be devoted to the history of food and its relationship to culture, from the prehistoric hunter-gatherers to the modern day fascination with all things culinary. The second half of the course will be devoted to understanding the modern food system within the developed world with particular emphasis on the thorny issues that are currently being debated: organics, buy local, genetic modification, sustainability, obesity, hunger and other topics of interest as they come up.

**FMK 150 (Food Marketing) Food and Sustainability (Williamson)**

This first year seminar explores the topic of sustainability as it relates to the food industry. Students will learn to conceptualize food sustainability and become familiar with sustainability issues from food production to consumption. Not only will the course address commonly known practices and product
attributes which the consumer perceives as sustainable (e.g., organic, local, humane), but will also reveal applied sustainability issues along the food value chain (e.g., food policy, hunger, waste, corporate sustainability initiatives, globalization).

HIS 150 (History) Reacting to the Past (Hyson)

Using an innovative and exciting role-playing method, students in this seminar will “become” political, intellectual, and religious leaders in three famous gatherings held at critical moments in history: the Athenian assembly in 403 B.C., the Grand Secretariat of Ming China in 1587, and the French National Assembly in 1791. Acting in the roles of these historical figures, students will discuss some of the central questions in political and social thought: Who should hold power in government, and why? What are the respective rights and responsibilities of "citizens," "subjects," and "rulers"? How do we balance the needs of individuals with the demands of the broader community? By reading primary and secondary sources, writing persuasive arguments, and conducting intensive “in-character” debates, students will develop a more active, engaged, and empathetic understanding of both historic events and historical practice.

IBU 150 (International Business) Cultural Diversity and International Business (Song)

This course is an introduction to international business and its many dimensions through the lens of cultural diversity. The course develops the understanding that cultural diversity is a crucial component of sustained and productive cross-border interactions in general and international business in particular. It discusses the power of diversity whereby the whole can be made greater than the sum of the parts. Through in-class exercises and out-of-class assignments, the course leads students to reflect that their framework for looking at the world around them, i.e., their worldview, may be very different from that of other cultures. A necessary condition for engaging in international business is to be aware of cultural differences and be able to adapt to environments that are different from those one is used to. This course develops in students not only the knowledge to better understand the reasons behind these cultural differences, but also the ability to more easily and effectively adapt to them. The main objective of the course is to provide students with a broad context enabling them to develop the capacity for critical thinking as well as the skills necessary to understand what success means in today’s culturally diverse global business environment. It is not enough to be economically successful. In fact, being economically successful is indeed undesirable in the absence of social responsibility and concern for the health of the planet.

IHS 150 (Interdisciplinary Health Services) Global Health Care (Okunna)

This is a first year seminar course designed to introduce non-major students to several major themes of American health care and to a comparison of this country’s health care system in relation to the health care systems of other countries. These macro health care issues include the social, political, and cultural foundations for health care, the economics of health care delivery, the ethical frameworks countries use to establish their interpretation of acceptable performance and behavior, the process by which the United States and other countries develop and implement their health policies, and what are now global trends for health care regardless of historical past, political system, or social cultures. The course requires significant analysis and critical review, application of data mining and literature reviews to study the unique aspects of the American health care system and how this system compares to those of other countries.
**LIN 150 Language, Linguistics and the Real World (Cinaglia)**

It is of particular interest and benefit to students pursuing various specialties including, but not limited to, Second Language Studies; English; Communication Studies; Speech Therapy; Autism Studies; certain specialties within Education, Sociology and Psychology; and Linguistics. It fulfills the GEP FYS requirement as well as counts toward the Linguistics major/minor. This course is geared toward helping students become consciously aware of the role of language in their daily lives (i.e., in the “Real World”). They will learn to recognize linguistic features of language(s) and will explore current research findings in linguistics. They will also be encouraged to be “linguists” themselves in the sense that they will document and analyze language-related issues present in daily communicative interactions.

**MCC 150 Iconic Women of Latin America (Hennes)**

This First Year Seminar takes a critical look at the representations of several iconic Latin American women, in particular Malintzin/La Malinche, the Virgin of Guadalupe, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, the "Libertadora" Manuela Sáenz, the Mirabal sisters (a.k.a. the Butterflies) and Rigoberta Menchú. Primary sources include paintings, literary works, film and other artistic renderings. Secondary sources draw from the fields of cultural studies, cultural history and social history. As we examine diverse representations of these figures, we describe the symbiotic relationships between the myths that surround them and their historical, political and cultural contexts. This analysis is based on the issue of gender norms past and present.

As we explore the course material, we will discuss learning styles, note-taking and reading strategies, how to conduct library research, how to write for diverse purposes (including a research paper), and how to deliver a research presentation. Daily class discussions will rely heavily on the active and informed participation of students.

**MGT 150 (Management) Work is Our Fire (Nelson)**

Is our work who we are? Drawing from the social sciences, this seminar encourages students to approach work as the essence of being—our “fire”—and working as a journey of experience and expression of dignity and not solely as a burden or means to make a living. Students will isolate and interrogate social and economic class stereotypes, misconceptions, and attitudes concerning a variety of jobs and professions as well as possible origins for these perceptions. The concept of occupational identity is introduced to illustrate how work can consume us (positively and negatively), how we can assume our working role as part of our understanding of “self,” and how we see others based on our attitudes about their occupational roles. Discussions will tackle definitions of success, legacy, respectability, prestige, materialism, workaholism, stress, and professionalism and how our definitions are influenced by personal and cultural values.

**MKT 150 (Marketing) People, Planet and Profit (Phillips)**

The purpose of this course will be to help students understand the responsibility that they have in helping to live a more sustainable lifestyle, persuading others to live a sustainable lifestyle, and acting as key influencers in helping to persuade businesses and other organizations in becoming more sustainable. As the title of the class indicates, students will be able to see how individuals, the
environment, and organizations can exist in harmony with one another. Indeed, as global citizens of the 21st Century, we have a moral imperative to do so.

**PMK 150 Global Healthcare: A Societal and Business Perspective (Trombetta)**

President Obama and Congress passed a milestone healthcare law that took effect in March 2010. We will be analyzing among other issues:

- Who "wins" and who "loses"?
- What will change in the delivery of healthcare, if anything?
- What can stop the ever increasing cost of healthcare?
- Healthcare systems throughout the world: aka, is it better to get sick in France or in the US?
- What is "Managed Care"; Who are these guys who operate in a nether world beneath the radar but absolutely control what doctors we can see, what hospitals we can go to, and what drugs we can take

**POL 150 (Political Science) Politics of Inequality and Diversity in America (McCahill)**

Since its founding, America has prided itself on the principle of equality in the political arena. Unlike European communities, the United States did not inherit a system of economic class distinctions. Nonetheless, there have always been empirical inconsistencies between the rhetoric of equality and the actual lived experience of democracy in America. While it is true that the U.S. has “democratized” many aspects of its political system, it is also the case that America has become increasingly unequal in terms of social, political, and economic indicators over the past three decades. Inequality in wealth distribution inherently structures and impacts other cleavages within the U.S. polity such as race/ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality, which may undermine a truly informed and participatory democratic system. This course will analyze patterns of diversity, inequality, and uniformity across the U.S. in terms of race/ethnicity, class, gender, and/or sexuality as well as the corresponding policies, interest groups, and representatives that attend to these issues. Specifically, we will discuss how these patterns affect democratic governance in the U.S. – in other words, whose voices are reflected in the political world and where? The course’s substantive focus will critically examine the relationship between the empirical evidence of diversity/inequality and the three major aspects of the political system: voice, governance, and policy. We will study the issue of diversity and inequality from a variety of perspectives: political theory, political participation, social movements, public opinion, interest groups and organizations, the media, elected officials, public policy, and governing institutions.

**POL 150 (Political Science) Women, Girls and Global Politics (Baglione)**

Although women and girls comprise roughly half the earth’s population, traditional analyses of world politics have ignored their roles in politics and the effects of international and national politics on females. This course seeks to remedy this absence by focusing on pressing contemporary issues, including political empowerment and democratization, post-conflict peace building, economic opportunities (and their absence), and gender-based violence. *Not for major credit. This is a Gender Studies course.*

**RMI 150 Natural Disasters & Coastal Recovery (Miller)**

The goal of this course is to empower students to use primary and secondary sources to investigate community recovery from natural disasters. The research will highlight the economics and social impact
of insurance. Specifically, students will compare and contrast community recovery from different types of natural disasters while evaluating the successes and/or struggle of insurance products in aiding community recovery from natural disasters.

**SOC 150 What's in a Neighborhood (S. Clampet Lundquist)**

A central tenet in sociology is the importance of examining the individual in her/his larger context, such as the neighborhood. Students taking this First Year Seminar will hear the stories of young people who have grown up in different types of communities, learn about how neighborhood inequality gets passed down from generation to generation, understand how inequality is built into local institutions such as schools, and explore ways to reduce neighborhood inequality.