**Spring 2020 First Year Seminars**

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

**ACTUARIAL SCIENCE**

**ASC 150 Forecasting the Future**

*FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Whitaker | FY2 TR 2:00-3:15 Whitaker*

Actuaries identify, evaluate, and quantify risk. This first year seminar course will examine techniques used by actuaries to forecast the future. The course will be interactive and will make extensive use of simulations based in Excel. Students will learn to make predictions based on past patterns, ranging from sports statistics to bond prices and insurance premiums. There will be classroom debates and group discussions on the challenges actuaries face in reconciling mathematical and social equity. Sample topics will include debating whether younger drivers should pay more for car insurance, discussing if affordable health insurance is a right, and examining the fairness and future of the social security system. Risk management professionals and actuaries will be featured as guest speakers during the semester. Basic Excel spreadsheet skills will be demonstrated and taught.

**ART**

**ART 150 Blasphemy and Devotion**

*FY1 R 12:30-3:15 Hage*

This course explores artists’ and architects’ varied and often controversial responses to issues of religion and spirituality. Prompted by today’s unprecedented globalization and the centrality of religion in politics worldwide, it analyzes artworks and buildings from the late nineteenth century to the present. Students investigate creative reactions to Catholicism, as well as Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and other forms of Christianity through reading a broad range of texts, writing, individual research, and class discussions.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**CSC 150 The Joy of Computing**

*D01 TR 3:30-4:45 Krueger*

This First Year Seminar course for majors and non-majors will introduce the basics of computer programming using Python (Joy of Computing) or Alice (Computational Thinking Through 3D Animation). Through programming practice, the students will gain an appreciation of computer programs and algorithm development that can be applied in many fields.

**CSC 150 Computational Thinking Through 3D Animation**

*D02 TR 12:30-1:45 Wei*

This First Year Seminar course for majors and non-majors will introduce the basics of computer programming using Python (Joy of Computing) or Alice (Computational Thinking Through 3D Animation). Through programming practice, the students will gain an appreciation of computer programs and algorithm development that can be applied in many fields.
DECISION & SYSTEM SCIENCES

**DSS 150 The Art & Science of Data Visualization and Decision-Making**
*FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Mendoza | FY2 TR 5:00-6:15 Mendoza*

The human mind can handle significant amounts of information, but is not able to process the large masses of data required for business decision-making. There is a vast number of data processing and visualization technologies, tools, and techniques available to business users, but it is important to first understand how human consumers of information receive and interpret it. This class uses an interdisciplinary approach to examine methods for data presentation which are more meaningful to users. Students will learn a variety of concepts related to information gathering, processing, and presentation, and have some practice with a data visualization tool.

ENGLISH

**ENG 150 Climate Changes Stories**
*FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Parker*

In this course, we will be examining both fictional and nonfictional accounts of climate change as means of understanding what has led us to this point, where we are now, and what we might expect in our future. Concurrently, we will be exploring what, if anything, we might do in light of this existential threat to humanity and to our planet.

FINANCE

**FIN 150 Finance through Movies**
*FY1 W 6:30-9:15 Curran*

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 *May only fulfill the GEP First-Year Seminar requirement. Does not satisfy any major or minor Finance requirement. Does not satisfy any free elective credit. Finally, we will discuss value creation through mergers and divestitures. 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.

HISTORY

**HIS 150 Reacting to the Past**
*FY1 MWF 10:10-11:00 Hyson | FY2 MWF 11:15-12:05 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 BCE, 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.

INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICES

IHS 150 Global Healthcare

D01 MWF 12:20-1:10 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.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

IBU 150 Cultural Diversity + International Business

FY1 TR 5:00-6:15 Neiva de Figueiredo

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 accept that their framework for looking at the world around them, i.e., their worldview, may be very different from that of other cultures. The course encourages students to explore their comfort level with different views of the world through experiential exercises and through investigation of some causes for differences across cultures. It introduces and develops critical thinking regarding the role of business and its obligations to all stakeholders while developing the notion of corporate social responsibility. First Year Seminar, Diversity, Globalization

LINGUISTICS

LIN 150 Lang Ling and the Real World

FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Ewald

Language, Linguistics, and the Real World is a first-year seminar (FYS). 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.

MANAGEMENT

**MGT 150 Work is our Fire**
**FY1 MWF 2:30-3:20 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. First Year Seminar only

MARKETING

**MKT 150 People, Planet, and Profit**
**FY1 TR 8:00-9:15 Phillips | FY2 TR 9:30-10:45 Phillips**
This freshman seminar helps students understand the responsibility they have to live a more sustainable lifestyle, persuading others to live a sustainable lifestyle, and acting as key influencers in persuading businesses and other organizations in becoming more sustainable. Students learn how individuals, the environment, and organizations can exist in harmony with one another.

MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

**MCC 150 Learning Across Cultures**
**FY1 MWF 9:05-9:55 Daniel**
This course is intended for students from cultures outside the United States as well as for U.S. citizens who speak other languages and are interested in studying other cultures or who will study abroad. The course has a double focus. First, we will learn about the process of learning in general. Second, we will study cultural frameworks and intercultural communication and reflect on how culture influences education. The goal is to help students learn more effectively and to have strategies for dealing with difficulties and challenges during their university education, and to give them tools for collaborating effectively with persons from diverse
backgrounds. Highly recommended for non-native speakers of English, for bilingual or multilingual students and for anyone studying abroad (or anyone intending to study abroad).

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKETING

PMK 150 Smart Healthcare Consumer  
FY1 TR 12:30-1:45 Jambulingam  
By virtue of our birth, we are all consumers of healthcare. Becoming a smart healthcare consumer requires us to understand what having healthcare means as a patient as well as how the system of care works (or sometimes fails.) Additionally, it requires insights from the perspectives of various stakeholders, who either provide direct care (doctors, nurses or hospitals), or who indirectly participate by influencing, regulating, and/or paying for healthcare. The course will examine the doctor visit as a transaction and will evaluate the motivation of the various stakeholders. The course will also consider how disruptive technology and medical innovation influence the future of medicine.

PHILOSOPHY

PHL 150 Six Impossible Things Breakfast  
FY1 MWF 10:10-11:00 Brokes  
In *Through the Looking Glass*, the White Queen (who lives backwards) tells Alice that she has sometimes “…believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.” Is it possible to believe the impossible? And if it is, should we believe impossible things? Of course most of what we believe isn’t merely possible or impossible. We typically believe things that are likely to be true – that are probable. This class examines the nature of possibility and probability and the various roles that these concepts play in human reasoning. The fundamental question we will try to answer is, "when it is rational to believe that something is true?"

RISK MANAGEMENT + INSURANCE

RMI 150 Nat Disast and Com Recov  
FY1 TR 8:00-9:15 Boyle  
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. *May only fulfill the GEP First-Year Seminar requirement. Does not satisfy any major or minor Risk Management & Insurance requirement. Does not satisfy any free elective credit