First-Year Seminars

Overview
The First-Year Seminar Program welcomes students to Mount Holyoke College, inviting them to join in the pleasure of an intellectually adventurous education in the liberal arts. In these small, discussion-based seminars, new students work with faculty to develop values and habits of mind that will form the foundation for their education at Mount Holyoke: making meaning in a complex world, intellectual confidence and resilience, academic integrity, community on campus. These are the first steps to achieving the College’s Learning Goals and courses will connect to those goals in discipline-specific ways.

All entering first-year students and transfers and Frances Perkins scholars entering without sophomore or junior status must enroll in and complete a First-Year Seminar in their first semester at Mount Holyoke. Those who enter with sophomore or junior standing as transfer students or as Frances Perkins scholars are exempt from the requirement, although encouraged to take a First-Year Seminar if they wish.

All first-year seminars share the same FYSEM subject designation, but they are taught by faculty from departments across the College.

A subset of the first-year seminars in Fall 2015 will be known as the FirstYear@MountHolyoke courses. These extend the first-year seminar experience, bringing the enrolled students together beginning at Orientation for introductions and connections as a group. Each class will include advising and mentoring activities. Students will be assigned a peer mentor, an experienced Mount Holyoke student to help them navigate their first semester at the College. The faculty teaching FirstYear@MountHolyoke courses will be especially focused on developing your argumentative skills, building intellectual confidence, and honing students’ ability to reflect on their own learning.

Contact Info
Elizabeth Markovits, director

Course Offerings

FYSEM-110AL All About Love
Fall
What is love? What are its causes? What kinds of love do we value? This interdisciplinary seminar explores different kinds of love (romantic, familial, divine, etc.) from diverse perspectives, including those of select philosophers, psychologists, neuroscientists, religious thinkers, and social justice activists.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
S. Mrozik
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110AN Animals and Others
Fall
Critical thinkers from a growing number of disciplines are interrogating the longstanding “human-animal binary,” asking difficult and provocative questions about the nature of life and the politics of being. In this course, first-year students will explore “the animal question” from a variety of perspectives, revisiting their own assumptions and experiences as they discover the interspecies networks that constitute the changing environment of Mount Holyoke. Special attention will be paid to the discourse of species as it intersects with other forms of difference. For their final project, students will create and publish an online bestiary of the ecosystems that shape our campus community.

FYSEM-110AS Art and Society
Fall
This course explores the interconnections between art and society using a sociological lens. We will examine topics such as the social construction of cultural authenticity; the relationship between cultural capital and group boundaries; and the legitimation of art forms.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
P. Banks
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110BH Being Human
Fall
What is it to be human? Does this depend only on human biology? Or does it also imply being distinctively free or autonomous, involving our ability to speak a language, reason, or interact and form communities with other human beings? Is being human equivalent to being a person? Are human beings inherently selfish? If human beings are essentially social animals, how are we so? Are seemingly inescapable features of being human like gender or race based on human biology? Finally, is perhaps being human distinctive because only human beings can raise the question of what it is to be human? What is at stake in raising and answering this question? We will critically examine the answers to this question that readings from both the Western and non-Western intellectual traditions provide.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
J. Koo
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110BR Breakfast in America
Fall
Have you ever thought about the origins of the sugar, coffee, bananas, and chocolate that we consume at the breakfast table? Who owns the coffee plantation? What are the social and environmental costs of bananas? This interdisciplinary course examines some of the cultural, historical, social, political, and economic issues surrounding these Latin American commodities. We will explore the lives of company owners, laborers, producers, and consumers as we trace the role sugar, coffee, bananas, and chocolate have played in the historical and cultural development of Latin America. We will also how these products are represented in art, literature, and film.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
D. Mosby
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110BW Black Women Writers
Fall
In this seminar we will explore various parts of the United States and the Caribbean through analyses of black women’s contemporary literature and visual
culture. The course will be organized around four themes prevalent in contemporary portrayals of the black female experience in the diaspora. The themes, Body, Voice, Memory, and Movement will allow us to examine notions of agency, representation and counter-narrative. How are narratives of resistance and possession appropriated by black women writers and image-makers and utilized for their own empowerment? What are the penalties inherent when a black woman ‘comes to voice’ in the arena of self-representation?

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
K. Brown
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110CG College Cognition
Fall
Which study habits allow students to get the most out of a college curriculum? What works well, and what doesn’t? For example, how important is a good night’s sleep before an exam? How (in)efficient is cramming? This course seeks to examine, from a molecular to a social-cognition level, the neurobiological and psychological underpinnings of successful study habits (both within and outside the classroom), as well as to investigate other elements that may impinge on effective study. Through lectures, discussions of readings from both textbook sources and the primary research literature, and experiential exercises, we will consider (among other topics): mechanisms of memory consolidation and retention (and forgetting), the role of sleep and stimulants in learning and recall, stereotype threat and academic performance, the value of group work, and comparisons of strategies for effective study.

Applies to requirement(s): Math & Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
G. Tanner
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110CV The Civil Rights Movement
Fall
We will examine the crusade for desegregation both within and beyond the South. Some attention will be given to the movement’s Reconstruction precedents, but we will concentrate on the post-1954 period. Readings will cover how segregation was instituted; different phases of the movement; leaders, organization, and followers; the role of women and children; and post-movement history.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
L. Morgan
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110CY Cyberpunk Grrrls: Women and the Digital Age
Spring
For several decades now, journalists, artists, and scholars have attempted to articulate the ways the Internet and digital culture has transformed how we live and think. Examining novels, movies, blogs, and other digital media, we will consider how the digital age shapes our understandings of gender and sexuality and how notions of femininity might help us define ‘being digital.’ As we develop reading and writing skills, we will also experiment in groups with new digital tools such as distant reading, advanced searching, and media remixing. Topics may include the Internet and brain science, avatars and fembots, virtual relationships, as well as cyber-bullying, hacking, and networking.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive; Speaking-Intensive
K. Singer
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110DC Chinese Diasporic Communities Around the World: History, Identity, and Race
Fall
How does a study of the Chinese diasporic communities in Southeast Asia, the U.S., and other parts of the world help us rethink concepts of Chinese-ness? We seek to answer the question in this introductory history seminar on the Chinese diaspora. Coverage spans from the 1500s to the present. Readings focus on the question of Chinese-ness as constructed and negotiated by different groups and individuals. Themes include imperialism, race, ethnicity, gender, nationalism, transnationalism, orientalism, hegemony, and globalization.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
R. Chu
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110DV Adventures in Music
Fall
Designed for students with or without prior musical experience, ‘Adventures in Music’ explores the materials of music. Through reading, hands-on interaction with instruments and their players, discussions and recordings, students will explore concepts of pitch, time, space, structure and timbre, thereby enriching their perception of the world of sound. The best way to access the indescribable in music is often to make music. With this in mind the class will embark in mini composition projects culminating in a final project that utilizes the knowledge acquired over the duration of the course.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
T. Ng
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4
FYSEM-110EM  Emily Dickinson at Mount Holyoke
Fall
Drawing on archival records and other documents, including Dickinson’s letters and poems, students in this seminar will explore what Dickinson’s year at Mary Lyon’s Mount Holyoke might have meant to her as student and poet. We will also examine Lyon’s vision of women’s education, as well as contrasting visions of education in ‘Old New England’ from such writers and thinkers as Emerson, Thoreau, and Stowe.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
C. Benfey
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110FT  Family Ties
Fall
In this course, students will engage a number of classic works of literature and philosophy, as well as contemporary works, in order to reflect on the ways the family shapes private and public life and is, in return, shaped by them. We will cover such questions as: how does the family create and then influence the individual? What does it mean to be part of a family? What do individuals owe their families and are those obligations fair? How do we form families? Can the family insulate individuals from politics and society–in good ways and bad? Is political order like familial order? Are the state and society a threat or support for the family? How have these understandings changed over time?
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
E. Markovits
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110FD  Italian Food Culture Between Tradition and Modern Business
Fall
Food is essential for Italian family and society, and the food industry is an important part of the Italian economy. Starting with Carlo Petrini’s Italian Slow Food revolution, we will explore and analyze the strong relationship between food, culture and business in modern Italian society. We will read and discuss literary and historical texts, films, and cookbooks. The course includes a field trip to an organic local ‘Italian’ farm and a cooking night. Taught in English.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
O. Frau
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110GL  Race, Gender, and the Law
Spring
TBA
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
L. Pasquerella
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110HS  How Images Shape History
Fall
Like the internet in our modern digital age, the Renaissance printed image was an exceptionally powerful tool of communication. It was harnessed for protest, publicity, and propaganda. It had the potential to incite violence, alter beliefs, shape popular taste, and open new worlds—in short, to change the course of history. In this seminar, we will explore Renaissance printed imagery of all kinds, including many works we can see in person at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum and Special Collections. In addition to giving us a glimpse of a bygone time, these images give us a fresh perspective onto our own fast-paced visual culture.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
J. Maier
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110GF  God, Free Will, and Morality
Fall
This course will introduce students to philosophy and its methods by looking at what philosophers, past and present, have said about three important and interrelated topics: God, morality, and freedom. We will ask questions such as: Does God exist? Is it rational to believe in God? What should I do if I want to do the right thing? When is it ok to criticize other cultures? How much do I owe to others? Do we have free will? Can we ever be held responsible for anything? Students will come out of the class better thinkers, better writers, and better equipped to tackle difficult questions like these with rigor and care.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
E. Vavova
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110FS  Forensic Science
Fall
This course will offer an introduction to the science in forensic investigations. We will explore several methods and instruments often used in CSI programs, such as mass spectrometry, infrared spectroscopy and DNA analysis, which are very valuable in evaluating crime scene evidence. We will explore the validity of scientific findings and the political implications of the use and availability of the data. Students will have a chance to be expert witnesses and be in the lab evaluating evidence. Analytical thinking and processing information in chemistry, biology, and other sciences will be emphasized, as well as oral and written communication skills. Short labs are planned.
Applies to requirement(s): Math & Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
T. Breton
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4
FYSEM-110MA Exploration of Mars
Fall
Exploration of Mars is an ongoing effort that has greatly expanded our knowledge of the Red Planet and changed our vision of its surface. We will examine the history of the investigation and exploration of Mars. We will also plan future observations from orbiting spacecraft, engage with scientists involved in current missions, and imagine the best ways to explore Mars in upcoming decades. Developing physical intuition and analytical skills in astronomy, geology, physics and other sciences will be emphasized, as well as speaking and writing ability.

 Applies to requirement(s): Math & Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
D. Dyar
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110MC Gossips, Liars, Preachers, Truth-Tellers: Information Networks and (Mis)Communication in Early America
Fall
Social networks, multimedia, the rapid transmission of information across cultural boundaries and geographic distances: the twenty-first century can seem like a brave new world for communication. Yet the peoples of the Americas have long been involved in creative ways of connecting with each other. This course surveys the history of communication in early America, from wampum beads to oral traditions, speeches to incendiary political pamphlets, comets to newspapers, inscribed rocks to Neoclassical poetry.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
C. DeLucia
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Notes: History majors may use this course to meet history department pre-1750 requirement
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110ML U.S. Multietnic Literatures: Refracting America
Fall
This course examines African American, Asian American, Chicana/o-Latina/o, and Native American literature and cultural politics. Examining the historical intersection of race, gender, and sexuality, we will explore themes of cultural identity, segregation and community formation, citizenship, labor, class, and family. Authors may include Toni Morrison, Danzy Senna, Josefa López, Sherman Alexie, Junot Diaz, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Joy Kogawa.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
I. Day
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110MN Medical Narratives
Fall
A study of writing by and about physicians, patients, and the communities and cultures that shape their stories. Readings will be drawn from fiction, nonfiction, drama, and autobiography by Anatole Broyard, Willa Cather, Margaret Edson, Atul Gawande, Jhumpa Lahiri, Doris Lessing, Ian McEwan, and William Carlos Williams.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
S. Sutherland

FYSEM-110MU Multicultural Families
Fall
This course examines the various ways the multicultural family in contemporary American, British, European, and South African culture is imagined by writers and filmmakers. Issues to be explored include: generational conflict, the struggle to 'break away,' and the claims of memory and nostalgia. Above all, the course seeks to explore the range of cultural forms in which these themes find expression.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
D. Weber
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110MW Mapping the World, the Mind, the Self
Fall and Spring
Maps are essential tools for understanding the world around us. But do our maps show us the world as it is, or do they allow us to choose the world we will see? Texts for the course may include poetry by Elizabeth Bishop, Thomas Hardy and others; short fiction by Borges, Faulkner and others, and visual art from the College Art Museum. This class may be especially suitable for students who do not identify as native speakers of English.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
M. Shea
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110NN The Nonhuman
Fall
This course will examine representations of figures not considered human, focusing on the nonhuman animal, with attention to the monster and the machine. We will analyze the verbal and visual techniques with which these figures are depicted, the social and political concerns they address, and the tenuous boundary between human and nonhuman. Authors, filmmakers, and critics may include Bierce, Cronenberg, Dunbar, Kafka, London, Martel, Moore, Poe, Ritvo, Scott, Wells, and Sewell.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
E. Young
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110NS Inside Art
Not Scheduled for This Year
A discussion-based introduction to painting, sculpture, and architecture in Europe and America from the Renaissance to the present. Using original objects in the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, classes will examine artistic materials, practices, and strategies from the Renaissance to the present. The course units are: Techniques and Materials, Visual Strategies, Illusion and Its Discontents, Subjects and Signs, Portraiture, and Interpretation. Students will practice the art of describing and refine their skills of observation and analysis.

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
P. Statti
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110NT Entropy
Fall
This course will explore the scientific, technological, and philosophical significance of the development of thermodynamics. The formulation of the laws of thermodynamics had profound implications for our understanding of the universe. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says, roughly, that the entropy of the universe is always increasing, and it had a deeply destabilizing effect on our Enlightenment image of a clockwork universe that is ordered and unchanging. We will study the laws of thermodynamics and their impact on science, art, literature, and society. Topics may include heat engines, reversible and irreversible processes, chaos, the heat death of the universe, Maxwell’s Demon, information theory, and the directionality of time.
Applies to requirement(s): Math & Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar
D. Shepardson
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110NY Reading the New York Times: Journalism, History, Power
Spring
This First Year seminar examines the political and cultural power of the New York Times in the American past and present. Students will analyze the Times’ coverage of critical historical events. By focusing on the Times as the most influential ‘agenda setter’ in American journalism, we will consider the complex relationship between journalism and history.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive
D. Czitrom
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110PA Israel/Palestine: Fact/Fiction
Spring
This first-year seminar traces the evolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through autobiography, novels, and film. It focuses on the birth of Israel and the creation of a Palestinian diaspora, Israel’s war in Lebanon, and the mental and physical barriers that separate Israelis and Palestinians today.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
S. Hashmi
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110PC Op-ed: Writing on Politics, Culture, and the Arts
Fall
We will read and discuss current writing on politics, culture, and the arts. Drawn from a variety of print and on-line sources (including The New Yorker, n+1, Arts and Letters Daily, and Bomb), subjects will range from literature, cinema, and art to international politics, crime, and celebrity culture. Using strategies and techniques learned from the readings, students will write essays and articles of their own.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
P. Scotto
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110PW Pursuit of Wellness
Fall and Spring
This course examines topics within the physical, mental, psychological and social dimensions of wellness. Current research and trends in health and wellness are emphasized and students will be encouraged to apply this knowledge in practical ways for healthful living. While this course is not activity based, a few classes will involve physical activity to promote wellness.
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
L. Priest
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110RN Reading Nonfiction
Not Scheduled for This Year
We will explore cultural and political issues by reading current books, newspapers, and magazines. Frequent writing assignments.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
E. Hill
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110RR Remembering as Reconciliation in the Wake of Violence
Fall
We explore how memorialization and reconciliation take place in societies that have experienced extreme violence. How do survivors, perpetrators and their descendants record the experience of atrocity through testimonials and memorials in ways that contrast with ‘official’ national narratives of the past? In what ways does memorialization end cycles of violence without re-triggering trauma? How does restorative justice, for example, address feelings of despair or guilt that get passed down from one generation to another? Our transnational study will include examples from Germany, Japan, Rwanda, and Cambodia primarily, with other examples included based on student interest.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
K. Remmler
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110SA Speaking and Arguing: The Rhetoric of Peace and War
Fall
The art and mechanics of persuading a polity to support either war or peace through oral argument. How speeches frame issues, mobilize public opinion, and persuade individuals to support or resist decisions to go to war. Students will be expected to deliver speeches, lead discussions, and critique their own and others’ presentations.
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive
V. Ferraro
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

First-Year Seminars 5
FYSEM-110SC  Science in the Media
Fall
Popular coverage of science ranges in depth and accuracy, and many scientists do not see the importance of communicating their work, or their excitement, to the general public. Scientific breakthroughs contribute to everyone's quality of life, but the process is poorly understood by many, leading to misunderstandings and misgivings that can affect public policy. This course will look at newsworthy results from current scientific research, exploring topics to better understand the science, ideas such as scientific consensus and repeatability, and examining the tension that may exist between the scientists and the public. Topics will be pulled largely from the physical sciences.&nbsp;

Applies to requirement(s): Math & Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Speaking-Intensive
K. Aidala
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110WC  Western Civilization: An Introduction Through Great Books
Fall
Beginning with works emerging from Athens and Jerusalem and proceeding to the modern world, this course will explore the prominent ideas of Western civilization. The course material will be centered on the Great Books from across disciplinary boundaries and will include authors such as Dante, Darwin, Homer, Nietzsche, Plato, Shakespeare and the writers of the Old and New Testaments.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
J. Hartley
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110WE  How Wars End
Fall
What social processes and institutions are necessary to bring an end to war? Do the efforts of citizens make a difference? What is the role of beliefs regarding identity? What about access to resources? What is the role of visible forms of restorative or retributive justice? This first-year seminar focuses primarily on small, regional conflicts in Africa to explore the social processes and institutions which facilitate the resolution of conflict. We will begin in the late 19th century, but concentrate on more recent events. Course assignments are designed to develop skills in academic writing, historical research, and collaborative learning.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Community-Based Learning; Writing-Intensive
H. Hanson
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4

FYSEM-110WH  What in the World is Going On?
Spring
We know the world faces several profound problems that may well threaten the long-term sustainability of life as we know it: environmental degradation and resource limits, deepening global inequality, global corporate capitalism, and ineffective national and international political institutions. To respond wisely, we must understand the complex interlocking systems we loosely name contemporary globalization. Only then will we be able to imagine appropriate responses and solutions.

Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
Other Attribute(s): First-Year Seminar; Writing-Intensive
P. Gill
Restrictions: Course limited to new first-years & transfers/FPs entering as first-years.
Credits: 4