

Integrative Learning (ILS) Courses

ILS2010 Modern Identities: 20th Century Literature and Beyond

This integrative learning course explores the relationship between modern world literature and its historical, social and/or political contexts through the study of the 20th century literary works. Fiction, poetry, drama and/or the essay are used as vehicles for exploring major movements, trends and events of the 20th century. Themes of racial, ethnic and gender identity, political oppression and/or war are explored. Emphases vary.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2015 Honors Seminar: Postcolonial Literature

Colonization of Africa and Asia and ensuing post-colonial reconstruction, two world wars, the spread and fall of communism, human rights movements and immigration profoundly changed the face of the world. This discussion-and-writing-intensive Integrative Learning Honors Seminar focuses on literary responses to and representations of select movements and events of the 20th century (emphasis varies). By reading texts through the lenses of postcolonial literary theory, history, philosophy and ethics, students examine the variety of human responses to the moral questions posed by colonialism, imperialism, and the social and political movements that arose in their wake.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1024, honors or SHARP status, sophomore status.

Offered at Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2090 The Working Life

This course focuses on the important and complicated role of work for individuals and societies. One of the most common everyday questions is, "What do you do for a living?" That question, when thoroughly examined, reveals a great deal about how people view themselves and each other, and how much work shapes the human experience. Through the lenses of history, sociology and literature, students examine how working lives have changed over time, the experience of the worker in various contexts and how work shapes identity.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2110 The Atomic Age

This course provides an overview of how the emergence of nuclear science (and the catastrophic consequences of its military use on Japan to end the Second World War) marked the beginning of an Atomic Age. How is it that the world's greatest scientific thinkers could produce a technological innovation capable of destruction on a global scale? From August 1945 forward, no longer could one draw simple connections between "science" and "progress." And yet nuclear developments continued to shape every aspect of human existence: from international diplomacy and energy policy to the "nuclear family" and popular culture. Drawing on scientific discourse, world history, international relations theory, Cold War studies, policy analysis, energy and environmental studies, and gender and cultural studies, this course explores the multiple ways in which we continue to live in an Atomic Age.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2123 City as Text

This course focuses on the city as a "text," a living environment that reveals itself and its inhabitants through an exploration of its history, economics, politics, culture and art. The city serves as an experiential case study which affords students an opportunity to investigate, reflect, and critically analyze the city and its inhabitants (including themselves) as a living and evolving system/organism. Through a series of visits to various organizations, businesses, and institutions of art, culture, government and education, students explore the nature and meaning of community and civic and professional life. Avenues of discovery in this course include art and architecture, communication and literature, history, economics, sociology, psychology and political science.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte

3 Semester Credits

ILS2135 Health, Healing and the Humanities

This course acquaints students with the medical humanities. Students learn how studying the humanities contributes to an understanding of issues related to health and illness. In this course students are introduced to the study of disease, disability, healthcare and wellness through the lenses of history, religion, philosophy and the arts.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2140 History of Science

This course explores human thought about the natural world from the earliest civilizations to the present. Students investigate a central question: From where did our ideas about the scientific process arise? At the heart of this course is the idea that science and technology are not isolated from the rest of society. Rather, they are shaped by historical and societal forces even as they influence civilization. In this course, students discuss the evolution of great scientific ideas of the past and the effects of religious, political, economic and social contexts on the development of scientific principles. Through close reading, analysis, discussion and integration of primary and secondary source materials, students make connections among the disciplines of history, theology, philosophy and science.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2145 Imagining the Human Body: Technology Past, Present and Future

This course examines the scientific, spiritual, cultural and intellectual meanings of technological innovations and interventions involving the human body. Students explore a variety of technological interventions, study their scientific roots, examine their historical development, discuss their philosophical implications and analyze how these interventions have been depicted in popular culture.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2150 Introduction to American Studies

This course introduces students to the major themes in American culture, both past and emerging. Students are given a sense of the tensions running through the identity and image of Americans here and around the world. As an integrative learning seminar, this course also serves as an introduction to the idea and practice of interdisciplinary scholarship. This course gives students a wide range of tools to make sense of what America is, has been and can be. Topics include traditional disciplines that help illuminate American culture. Focus is on art, music, literature, history and anthropology.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2180 Sexuality: Science/Culture/Law

Sex. It is a seemingly simple term. Whether your birth certificate reads “F” or “M” conjures up a host of assumptions and expectations: acceptable sexual partners, appropriate physical presentation, acceptance of societal norms attached to your designation, and generally how you “fit” in society. One’s designated sex at birth was also synonymous with one’s gender. Are we beginning to understand, however, that this binary construct, and all its implications, is wrongly limited? Historically, there have been multiple revolutions in the way sex is conceptualized. In biology, evidence has mounted that biological sex and sexual orientation are not synonymous, nor is the notion of a binary gender construct. There is genetic and physiological support for the existence of multiple biological sexes, and that sexual orientation is hardwired rather than a choice or preference. Literature and popular culture have moved from portraying members of the LGBTQI community as a joke to treating it as a serious topic of personal liberation. The law has moved from criminalizing homosexual acts to granting same-sex marriage licenses to extending Civil Rights protection to the transgender community under Title VII. This course explores the links, or lack thereof, between these different developments. Is law more open to sexual variety because of the findings of brain science? Is popular culture more inclusive because of the increased economic clout of the LGBTQIA community? Or did these things occur independently? How do we relate these developments to the post-structural analysis of sexuality, gender and identity?.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2205 All Creatures Great and Small: Animals and Society

Our relationship with animals is complex: We cry when animals die in movies but eat them for dinner; we treat our pets as family members while at the same time place bets on them at the racetrack. This course is designed to allow students to explore our complex relationship with animals in human society by examining the varied meanings assigned to them: food, emotional support, pets, research subjects, symbols and entertainment. Students engage in discipline-specific research related to animals in society, while also expanding their overall interdisciplinary knowledge.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2213 The Earth in Peril: A Literary and Scientific Analysis

This course examines environmental issues created by unrealistic views about the earth’s capabilities. Relationships among people, environments and natural resources are analyzed through literature and scientific writings. Students examine why and how world views affect the natural world’s destruction and preservation.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2215 Honors Seminar: Literary Environmentalism

This course examines environmental issues created by conflicting views about the earth’s capabilities. Relationships among people, environments and natural resources are analyzed through literature and scientific writings. Students examine why and how world views affect the natural world’s destruction and discuss possible theories of preservation. Students contribute to inquiry surrounding the issue of sustainability through research and analysis.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1024, honors or SHARP status, sophomore status.

Offered at Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2240 Knowledge and Evidence

Knowledge and Evidence provides students with a holistic understanding of the concept of “truth,” along with an effectively developed skillset for thinking critically, and acting creatively, with respect to this concept. The course achieves this by illustrating the intimate connection between data and truth, showing the ways in which one can lead to the other, and also pointing out the fallacies and pitfalls that often obstruct the connection. In part, the course is an introduction to the field of epistemology, addressing the question “How do we know what we know?” The course provides a historical overview of many critical epistemological questions, with examples drawn from the writings of thinkers from classical Greece up through the modern era. It also draws critical connections between these epistemological theories and the scientific method and explains what is necessary for proper experimental design. These concepts are illustrated most vividly through the study of a variety of famous experiments. Experiments are chosen from the fields of psychology, physics, chemistry, sociology, computer science and philosophy. Students are taught to identify the dominant theories of truth in their chosen professions and to think critically about the dominant paradigms they encounter.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte
3 Semester Credits

ILS2280 Science and Civilization

This course explores the social, political and historic contexts and implications of several scientific and technological developments through a variety of genres, including textbooks, newspapers and magazine articles, film, music, art, literature and the internet. The goal of this course is to raise student awareness of the global impacts, positive and negative, associated with specific scientific and technological developments, with emphasis on discerning the interconnectedness of those impacts. Through inquiry, research and debate, students develop a better understanding of the unique historical, social, political and cultural contexts in which these scientific and technological developments evolved and the influence these contexts had upon the form of these developments. In addition, students gain a deeper appreciation of the implications of these developments on the present and future.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2305 Honors Seminar: Behavioral Economics

Behavioral Economics is a field of research in the social sciences that brings together the disciplines of economics and psychology. This Honors-level integrated learning seminar utilizes this approach to better understand human behavior. By drawing on both disciplines, students better understand why people frequently make irrational economic decisions and how certain choice contexts can lead to predictably irrational behavior. Students analyze through systematic investigation and experimentation a variety of biases and shortcomings people regularly display in making rational economic choices. Prerequisite(s): ECON1001 or ECON1002, ENG0001 or placement, ENG1024, honors or SHARP status, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2320 Economics of Law and Order

This course examines legal institutions through the lens of economics. Emphasis is placed on how changing laws influence outcomes at a societal level. In each lesson, students will focus on the relevant economic background and institutional structure and then deduce how this in turn informed choices made by participants in the economy. The economic order that is generated by the interaction of countless individuals and firms is mediated through the legal system. If one wishes to understand this extended order, one must understand the legal institutions in which it operates.

Prerequisite(s): ECON1001 or ECON1002, ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, LAW2001, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS2325 Economics of Sin

This course integrates economic, sociological and psychological principles to examine price gouging, cheating, illegal drugs, sex and gambling. Emphasis is on examining these "sinful" behaviors in the context of moral development and theories of motivation. Students also examine how government seeks to change and penalize such behavior and the consequences of these interventions.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2330 The Good Life

This course challenges students to create personal and professional lives of meaning and purpose. The course explores the underlying values and structure of a life well-led, and proactive dispositions and strategies to create such a life. Emphasis is placed on social science and humanity's ways of thinking, specifically aspects of agency, the human condition and literary criticism. The course examines how the American Dream influences perceptions of success, particularly the ethos of prosperity and social mobility. Students read excerpts from fiction and biography that examine convention, invention and achievement. This course concludes with an exploration of change and chance, and strategies for leading a good life.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online

3 Semester Credits

ILS2370 Obesity

This course considers the now global problem of obesity from biological, psychological and sociological perspectives. Since the 1970s there has been a rapid increase in the incidence of overweight and obese individuals in the United States with 65 percent of adults now overweight. Childhood obesity rates have tripled in the last 20 years, producing the first generation of Americans who are predicted to have a shorter life span than their parents. The obesity epidemic is widely acknowledged in the United States, but in the past two decades, this problem has also spread to developing countries as they accelerate their nutrition transition to more mass-produced and processed foods. The roles of government and business are explored, in influencing access to foods and in defining obesity vs. health. The study of this now global problem is relevant from a personal health perspective as well as a political and economic perspective. Individuals empowered with knowledge can modify their own food environments and that of their children. A well-educated populace may wish to support initiatives to make progress on this societal problem to avoid economic losses in productivity and healthcare costs that will compromise America's competitiveness.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2385 Visual Literacy and the Sociology of Perception

This course studies human perception of the social world from both a communications and sociological perspective. Elements of picture-based media as a means of molding cultural perceptions, social biases and personal views of reality are studied. Through a series of exercises, students critically examine images in art, still photographs, television, advertising, film and documentaries to determine their sociological messages. Using the language of visual literacy and an understanding of perception, students test assumptions about their world.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2390 The XX Factor

The XX Factor takes an integrative learning approach to gender role development that foregrounds psychology and literature. This approach provides multiple lenses through which to examine current and historical concepts of women's psychological and social development. It prioritizes close textual analysis of gender identity and sexuality as figured in literature across a broad spectrum. The course considers both conformity and resistance to societal biases, stereotyping, and the imposition of gender and sexual norms. In doing so, it promotes critical thinking about the diverse possibilities for women's identities.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2435 Leonardo da Vinci: Culture, Art and Math

This course covers a portion of the movement in Europe known as the Renaissance. It explores the works of one particular man, Leonardo da Vinci, and how his insatiable hunger for understanding impacted the culture of Florence and Milan, Italy. The course begins by examining da Vinci himself and his place in society, then moves on to examine some of his works of art and writings on architectural design and war machines culturally, historically and mathematically.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2440 Logic, Reasoning and Nonsense: How to Tell the Difference

This course introduces students to logic, a discipline that straddles public policy, philosophy, law and mathematics. Students are empowered to use logic in their personal and professional lives to make informed decisions, identify invalid arguments and debate current topics. Topics include formal structures of thought as they can be readily applied to the organization of thought in written and spoken language. Students identify the logical errors or fallacies that are most frequently made in written and oral discourse.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status.

Offered at Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2450 The Mathematics of Art

This course examines the use and appearance of mathematical principles and structures in art, architecture, sculpture and music throughout the history of the Western world. Topics include the Golden Ratio, the Fibonacci Sequence, linear perspective, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and the arithmetic behind music and music composition.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS2460 Science of Superheroes

This course is designed to give students a unique look at applications of scientific topics as they appear in the worlds of popular culture superheroes. The goal of the course is to promote scientific literacy and research by using popular culture as a scaffold for scientific topics. Students have the opportunity to both question and test the realism of scientific properties that exist in these popular culture worlds. These properties come from the integrated areas of physics and psychology.

Prerequisite(s): ENG0001 or placement, ENG1020 or ENG1024, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4070 Nostalgia, Memory and Hybrid Identity

This course examines diasporic literature in the context of cultural theory, history, psychology, philosophy and popular culture (such as music, film and art) to better understand the associated cultural negotiations. Students explore the way diasporic literature of the last century has significantly transformed the literary, theoretical and cultural landscape of the U.S., and raised a range of complex issues relating to identity, language, border crossings (geographical, linguistic and gender, etc.) hybridity, and acculturation and resistance. Readings range across such genres as memoir, fiction, essay, drama and poetry to consider how issues of identity and tradition are represented and contested by immigrant writers in the context of displacement and diaspora.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4110 Capital Punishment in America

From the colonization of America to the present, over 18,000 individuals have been executed under lawful and/or territorial authority. This course examines the historical, social, ethical, judicial, legislative and political events that have led to the present patchwork approach to executions in the United States. With an eye toward evaluating the continued efficacy of capital punishment in a 21st-century criminal justice system, attention is given to the rationale and justification for executions from legal, social, political and economic points of view.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, LAW2001 or LAW2005 or LAW3015 or LAW3025, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4115 Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Mythology

This course introduces students to classical and world mythology in order to understand the eternal, timeless nature of universal archetypes and themes while also exploring how they acquire new, contemporary meanings. Students learn to interpret myth using elements of literature as well as through the theories of myth interpretation. From Homer to Harry Potter, emphasis is placed upon analysis of primary readings as well as their interpretations within the context of a variety of disciplines. Class discussions and student writing encourage critical thinking, synthesis and application of the terminology of the study of mythology.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4120 Disease and Culture

This course addresses the question of what constitutes a disease from the perspectives of science and the humanities. Topics include the origins of disease and the effect that disease has had on political events, art and culture, warfare, and the economy of societies both historically and in today's world, and how societies throughout time have attempted, either successfully or unsuccessfully, to address the problem of disease. Students explore the cultural interpretations given to various diseases. Through the examination and analysis of various medical case studies, historical readings and literary pieces, students learn to think critically about how disease has helped to shape the world that we live in and what disease means to them.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4125 Honors Seminar: Shakespeare: Studies in the Politics of Performance

This course explores the direct and indirect ways that performances of Shakespeare's plays engage political debates, challenge social norms, provide historical insights, and encourage audiences to participate in the often subversive experience of playing. The idea that "all the world's a stage" was radical in Shakespeare's day, and continues to be so in ours. Students examine productions of the plays within historical contexts, considering both what they might have signified for their original audiences and how they still speak to us today. Employing a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including theatre arts, students analyze a wide range of productions and their influence on and beyond the stage. The course culminates with students groups proposing politically and culturally engaged stagings of a number of scenes from Shakespeare's plays, accompanied by contextualization and explanation of the production/performance choices.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, honors or SHARP status, senior status.

Offered at Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4130 History of Digital Art

This course surveys the emerging world of digitally originated and exhibited artwork. A wide range of digital art formats are examined, including (but not limited to) 2-D, 3-D, motion, interactive, immersive, sensor-based, internet-based and "gamification." Key art historical influences in the technology of art creation from the Renaissance to the 21st century are explored. Major art periods such as Fluxus, Conceptual, Dada and Post-Modernism are reviewed as they relate to the development and growth of the late 20th-century digital art movement. Students investigate the history and growth of international public art paradigms and practices and their connections to digital art through civic, public and private institutions. Students also examine the relationship between digital art and the industry of creative design and media. Through active visual research of curated digital art pieces students discover a wide array of critically noted digital artists and their work. Finally, students consider the new aesthetics of digital art, comparing and contrasting them to more conventional art formats and exhibition models.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Online, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4133 How to Change the World

This course explores social entrepreneurs as a force of transformative change. What are the motivations and methods of those who seek to solve social problems on a large scale? What needs changing in the world and what do art and literature have to say about being an agent of change? How might your ambition, abilities and persistence make others believe in the possibility of achieving very difficult tasks? How might you distort reality for good? The course gives students a broad avenue to align what they care about, what they are good at, and what they enjoy with how they might have real impact in the world.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte
3 Semester Credits

ILS4170 Passion, Power and Principle: Lessons at Play in Shakespeare

This course employs the still-relevant insights of the Shakespearean canon as a means of understanding and resolving contemporary ethical dilemmas, social tensions and the conflicting demands of citizenship in today's world. Focus is on the resolution of moral dilemmas involving divisions of power, the use of authority, familial obligations and conflicting loyalties. This course takes an integrative learning approach that draws on literature, philosophy (ethics) and history to promote analysis and meaningful comparisons between the problems confronted in the world of Shakespeare's plays (and the society they reflect) and those faced by us today.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4176 Sports in Film and Literature

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the significant inspiration of athletic endeavors upon the literary and cinematic imagination. Writers of fiction and nonfiction, prose writers and poets have discovered in the athletic experience a useful metaphor to express the purpose and meaning of life. Modern film explores both the realism and romanticism of sports in popular culture. This course is designed to acquaint the student with the essence of games as myth and metaphor and develop an appreciation of the historical context in which the stories are constructed and heard. The interdisciplinary considerations of history and culture allow for a richer understanding and appreciation of sports and sports literature.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4180 Things That Go Bump In the Night: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Supernatural

This course explores the deeper meanings of supernatural creatures in works of film and literature from the perspectives of history, science, philosophy, literature and film. The course addresses the question of why certain supernatural creatures (e.g., vampires, zombies, werewolves, ghosts, the demonically possessed, Frankenstein's monster and extraterrestrial creatures) have featured so prominently in human thought, human fears and works of literature and film from antiquity to the present day. In doing so, the course addresses the historical context in which such beliefs have arisen and how they have changed. Students are encouraged to apply interpretive skills to an analysis of supernatural creatures with which they are familiar and to draw connections between the monsters of the 21st century and societal changes and hidden conflicts in the contemporary world.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4190 The Problem With Evil

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the examination of evil as a concept that has fascinated and horrified humans throughout history. Through religions, social norms, philosophies and literatures, people have attempted to define evil in order to explain, and make meaningful, aspects of life that seem otherwise incomprehensible or unbearably senseless. The course explores the construction and uses of evil as a defining term, and its impact on nations, communities and individuals. Students read a wide range of texts across broad historical and cultural spectrums, looking for the answers to this question that continues to perplex and captivate us.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4270 Narragansett Bay

This course investigates the natural history, industrial development, ecological changes and cultural transformations that occurred from pre-Colonial to post-industrial periods in the Narragansett Bay watershed. The course searches policy solutions to guide future development and examines the geological, biological, economic and cultural history of Narragansett Bay. Students explore the arrival and settlement of humans and the effect of human populations in the Narragansett Bay region. The relationship between climate change and the Narragansett Bay region is analyzed.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4290 Science or Pseudoscience?

Pseudoscience is any area of beliefs that sells itself as scientific but upon investigation is found to have little or no scientific evidence. Examples include areas such as alternative medicine, astrology and "creation science." This course looks at the basis for how science works and how we distinguish between real science and pseudoscience. This course focuses on the scientific method and how it is used to test claims in any area, but exploration of psychological issues for why people believe strongly in things that are not supported by facts is also examined. Exploration of the difference between science and pseudoscience is done using some of the areas discussed above as well as topics such as organic and GMO foods, climate change and others. The application of the scientific method provides the basis to the evaluation of these fields. Finally, the history of pseudoscience is briefly explored as well as the role that the internet and social media plays in the propagation of pseudoscience.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4302 Abuse of Power: Corruption in Contemporary Society

This course examines how (in the hands of certain individuals and groups and under "favorable" social, political, historical and economic conditions) the abuse of power and corruption impacts lives in all social strata. Students analyze this question and propose research-based recommendations for transforming dysfunctional systems into sustainable and productive models.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4320 (De)Constructing Race and Color

This course addresses the racialization processes involved in the social construction of the color of race — White, Yellow, Brown, Red and Black — through interdisciplinary studies including the arts, humanities, social sciences, biology, law and education. The course identifies the key parameters of the racialization process (historical subjugation through involuntary immigration and migration, voluntary immigration, prejudice, stereotypes, scientific racism, cultural racism, and systemic) of institutional racism and how various groups in the United States were raced into a color. Students are tasked with thinking about why race matters within educational, economic, political and social institutions. The course involves intentional discourse on the complexity of the color of race through scientific interrogation, analysis and interpretation of the course materials to understand the social construction of the color of race and how race can be deconstructed in the 21st century.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4330 Economic Explorations in American History

This course seeks to explain American history through the lens of economics. Emphasis is placed on how changing economic modes of production influenced outcomes at the societal level. In each episode, students focus on the relevant economic background and institutional structure and then deduce how this in turn informed historical change in activities ranging from agriculture, household production, industrialization, social movements, political response and the new information economy.

Prerequisite(s): ECON1001 or ECON1002, ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte

3 Semester Credits

ILS4340 Global Food Security and Leading Change Locally

This interdisciplinary course critically assesses the global challenges of food security through classwork and work experience with a local community organization of the student's choosing. Food is explored from a cultural, nutritional, ecological and ethical context while analyzing issues of food production, causes of insufficient supply, nutritional and health implications, and effects on quality of life. Evaluation of political, environmental, technological and economic factors that contribute to the perpetual issue of food insecurity and the social consequences also occurs. The critical issue of the course examines whether access to food is a basic human right and whose responsibility it is to provide societal members with access to nourishment necessary for productivity. These global food security issues are explored by the student theoretically, via traditional classroom meetings, and experientially while working 21 hours with members of a local community organization. During on-site work, students utilize their leadership skills to address a food security issue, designing and completing a substantial agency-based project that serves as a tangible contribution to the overall organization and its ability to support local community members.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4430 Explorations in Symmetry

The course introduces the student to the basic concept of symmetry and its important role as a unifying agent in the understanding of mathematics, nature, art, architecture and music. Topics covered include an introduction to group theory, the mathematical language of symmetry, transformations, general symmetry principles and applications.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, MATH1040 or MATH2001 or MATH2010 or MATH2020, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits

ILS4490 Statistics of Popular Culture

This course is designed to give students a unique look at statistics topics applied outside the classroom, specifically in the world of popular culture. Examples of popular culture include but are not limited to movies, television, books, music, sports and video games. These topics are analyzed through a unique guise of combining statistics with sociology. Students should be able to practice what they have learned in basic statistics course(s) to further prepare them to use research design outside of academics.

Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, MATH2001 or MATH2010, senior status.

Offered at Charlotte, Providence

3 Semester Credits