Integrative Learning (ILS) Courses

**ILS2003 The American Dream**
This course addresses the broad theme and question of “What is the American Dream” and also asks, “Have we achieved it?” “Has it changed?” and “What is the cost of pursuing it?” We explore this topic through various themes, including “Manifest Destiny,” “The Immigrant Experience,” “Civil Rights,” “Gender Rights,” “The Pursuit of Happiness,” “Work and Business,” and “Class and Culture.” While this course is primarily a literature course, it uses a multidisciplinary approach to explore this topic from various perspectives, including history, economics, ethics, culture, psychology, and political science. Prerequisite(s): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE 3 Semester Credits

**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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. Prerequisite(s): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL) Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE 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): ENG1024 or English placement, honors status, sophomore status. (OL) Offered at Denver, North Miami, Online, 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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami 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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL) Offered at Charlotte, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE 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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. Offered at Charlotte, Denver, Denver CE, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE 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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE 3 Semester Credits

**ILS2215 Honors Seminar: The Earth in Peril: A Literary and Scientific Analysis**
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): ENG1024 or English placement, honors status, sophomore status. Offered at Denver, North Miami, Providence 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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, 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, ENG1024 or English placement, honors status, sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence

3 Semester Credits

**ILS2320 Economics of Law and Order**

This course examines legal institutions through the lens of economics. Emphasis will be 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, ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, LAW2001, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, Denver CE, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, sophomore status.

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status. (OL)

Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE

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): ENG1020 or ENG1024 or English placement, MATH1002 (or higher), sophomore status.
Offered at Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE
3 Semester Credits

ILS4020 Keywords in Social Media
This course asks students to identify and analyze the roots of several keywords from historical, sociological and technological perspectives; demonstrate knowledge of how to do things with keywords (i.e., how sharing information can lead to apprehending a criminal); and evaluate the relevance of keywords to life in a democratic society. Abstract theories are applied to concrete case studies of social networks.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at North Miami, 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 ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, 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.
(OL)
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE
3 Semester Credits

ILS4115 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 status, senior status.
Offered at North Miami, Providence
3 Semester Credits

ILS4140 The Legal Imagination
This course introduces students to the textual nature of the law. Through intensive study of literary, persuasive and legal texts, students explore the commonalities between what we call "literature" and what we call "law." Students begin to see the "constitutive rhetoric" of those texts through which an author creates a social and political community with words.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, one LAW-designated course, (one LIT-designated course or MCST2030 or ILS2010 or ILS2015 or ILS2090 or ILS2127 or ILS2150 or ILS2180), senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE
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, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE
3 Semester Credits

ILS4175 Contemporary Approaches to American Nostalgia
This course allows students to explore the tendency to look back with fondness on some distant, wonderful past. Is nostalgia a basic human condition? Students explore this question across cultures and through the lenses offered by biology, psychology, literature, history and other academic disciplines. Nostalgia as a type of fiction writing is discussed, along with the consequences of those "stories." The work of nostalgia as it engages discourses of political ideology, race, gender, sexuality, class, etc. is discussed. Students study a few particular examples of American nostalgia before turning their attention to the work nostalgia is doing now and the consequences of that work.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE
3 Semester Credits

ILS4177 Studies in Nostalgia, or the Way Things Never Were
This course allows students to explore the tendency to look back with fondness on some distant, wonderful past. Is nostalgia a basic human condition? Students explore this question across cultures and through the lenses offered by biology, psychology, literature, history and other academic disciplines. Nostalgia as a type of fiction writing is discussed, along with the consequences of those "stories." The work of nostalgia as it engages discourses of political ideology, race, gender, sexuality, class, etc. is discussed. Students study a few particular examples of American nostalgia before turning their attention to the work nostalgia is doing now and the consequences of that work.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS 2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Denver, North Miami, Providence
3 Semester Credits
ILS4210 Colors
This course explores the role and importance of colors in the natural world, astronomy, geology, human society, culture, psychology, art and many other disciplines. Topics include the physics of color and its perception by animals and the color of the ocean, rocks, minerals, stars and galaxies. In addition, the various uses of color by plants is examined, including the utilization of colored pigments by plants for light absorption in photosynthesis. The various ways that animals use color are also explored, including how colors are used by both predators and prey and how they are used to attract mates. Additional topics include the affect of colors on humans, including mood, language, musical expression, and as a symbol of national or group identity in politics and religion. Colors have a profound influence in artistic expression and in the food and fashion industries. The importance of colors in all of these different disciplines are examined. With the knowledge and skills learned in this course, students are able to explore the use and application of colors in their own chosen field of interest.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, 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 ILS2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Denver, North Miami, 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.
(OL)
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, Online, Providence, Providence CE
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, Denver, North Miami, Providence, Providence CE
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, North Miami
3 Semester Credits

ILS4340 Global Food Security and Leading Change Locally
This interdisciplinary course critically assesses the global challenges of food security and how leadership in a local community organization addresses food access. 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 the nourishment needed to be productive. These perspectives are explored theoretically, on the global scale, and experientially, in the local community. Additionally the student utilizes his/her leadership skills to engage 40 hours of community service in an organization of his/her choosing, preferably nonprofit or with professor approval a for-profit socially responsible organization. The student completes a substantial agency-based project, in conjunction with his/her site supervisor that serves as a tangible contribution to the overall organization and its ability to address food security locally.
Prerequisite(s): ENG1021 or ENG1027, any ILS2000-level course, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami, 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 ILS2000-level course, MATH2001 or MATH2010, senior status.
Offered at Charlotte, Denver, North Miami
3 Semester Credits