
First-Year Seminars

2020

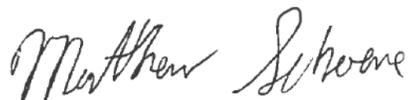


Albion College

When I began college as a first-year student in 2005, one thing I immediately loved about college was the sheer amount of academic freedom I could sense around me. I had freedom to take the classes I wanted to take, explore the ideas I wanted to explore and engage with the departments I wanted to engage with. That freedom remains important to me, important to your faculty, and it's something we want to introduce you to as well. In this booklet, you will find 36 potential First-Year Seminars offered for the Fall 2020 term, and we ask you to begin embracing your newfound academic freedom by ranking your initial preferences.

First-Year Seminars are special courses designed to create a stimulating learning environment in the small class setting emblematic of Albion's character and identity. These courses initiate intensive contact with our extraordinary group of faculty and emphasize discussion, personal growth, the opportunity for individualized student research projects and the development of strong communication skills. We hope that this First-Year Seminar, the first course you select, begins your journey to the lifelong learning that characterizes Albion graduates.

We are particularly excited to introduce these First-Year seminar sections as part of a dynamic Learning Community system. Each First-Year Seminar is paired to a second class designed to compliment the goals and subject nature of your FYS section. You'll take both classes with the same group of classmates, receive close attention from your faculty and begin integrating into your new academic home. On behalf of my colleagues, please let me welcome you to Albion College and personally invite you to begin planning this part of your First-Year Experience!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Schoene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Schoene, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Director, First-Year Seminar Program

First-Year Seminars, Fall 2020

All entering students enroll in a First-Year Seminar as part of the College's core requirement for graduation. Please read through the descriptions of the seminars in this booklet and identify your first four choices among these offerings.

Additional information on registering for a First-Year Seminar appears on a separate form which can be downloaded from the Web at albion.edu/firstyear/seminars/. Note: In some seminars, a field trip fee will apply.

These seminars are offered as part of the William Atwell Brown, Jr. and Mary Brown Vacin First-Year Experience.

Ancient Aliens and Lost Civilizations: Archaeology & Popular Culture

Brad Chase (Anthropology)

Course Description—We live in an era of unprecedented knowledge about the human past. Archaeologists from nearly every country in the world are telling us more than ever before about how ancient societies were organized and motivated to create magnificent monuments to human ingenuity like the pyramids of Egypt, Stonehenge—and so many others. Yet we also live in an era of unprecedented disinformation, fake news, and sensational claims presented as fact. The television show *Ancient Aliens*, for example, has run for *fifteen* seasons on the *History* channel making it arguably more accessible than any other source of information on the ancient past—despite nearly every episode being completely misleading from beginning to end. How do archaeologists know what they know? How can you distinguish actual knowledge from disinformation more broadly? And why do some tall tales about the ancient past seem to have such traction in our popular culture? In this course you will learn how to evaluate competing claims to knowledge through critical research while exploring the cultural significance of some truly wacky ideas.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Anthropology 105: Introduction to Anthropology.

Instructor—Brad Chase (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison) is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and has taught at Albion since 2008. He is an archaeologist whose research explores the Indus Civilization of ancient India and Pakistan. When he is not teaching courses at Albion or conducting research in India, he can be found chasing after a wily two-year old.

Patchwork America

Matthew Schoene (Sociology)

Course Description—In the contemporary United States, we are constantly bombarded by the idea that we are divided – economically, ethnically, politically and culturally. Where did this divide come from? In this seminar, we will take the position that the real divide within this country is one of

communities with different characteristics – characteristics with the potential to shape who you are, how you spend your time, what you believe and how your life is likely to turn out. Using simplistic, dichotomous designations like conservative/liberal, rural/urban, rich/poor or black/white tends to miss these core realities of community life.

Communities give us an opportunity to think about the local organization of human society. What are the economic, environmental, political and cultural structures that create the realities of different communities? How do these conditions influence the behavior of the people who call it home? Ultimately, we can never truly understand a community better than the people who live there, but we can take steps toward better understanding social diversity in the United States by examining perhaps the only thing that everyone has: a home.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology.

Instructor—Matthew Schoene (PhD, The Ohio State University) is a global/transnational sociologist studying social movement activity and institutional distrust, especially in cities and countries of the European Union. Despite his global research agenda, he lived in five different states throughout his 20s (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina and Michigan) and has subsequently become very interested in how we live, work and interact within our local communities.

Cryptids & Cryptozoology: From The Abominable Snowman to the Zuiyo-Maru Monster

Emmeline Solomon (Art)

Course Description—Humans supposedly fear the unknown. With cryptids we transform the things we are supposed to fear into stories, mascots, and cult figures. This class focuses on that impulse towards facing the thing we cannot quite see in the dark and scary wood, and embracing it with open arms. We will investigate existing cryptozoological creatures, the various truths or untruths that bring them into existence, and do some invention and re-invention of our own. We will be exploring questions such as: What makes a good cryptid? What makes a fiction believable? What makes a truth into fiction? What does this story look like outside the

human perspective? Is the jersey devil real? Is Nessie really a tree-branch? Why are there so many illustrations of mothman doing kickflips? Are we afraid of bigfoot or do we identify with him as an introvert icon? This class includes readings, research, discussion, drawing, podcast-listening, film-watching, and both critical and creative writing.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Art 102: Creative Processes 2-D.

Instructor—Emmeline Solomon (M.F.A., Washington University in St. Louis) is an Assistant Professor in the Art and Art History department where she teaches Printmaking, Creative Process: 2D, Book Arts, and this semester’s Graphic Storytelling course. Her printmaking, book, and installation work examines the mundane, the holy, and their inherently interchangeable nature — folklore, superstitions, religious iconography, bags of tea, challah, bees, people singing robin at a subway stop at 1am, and failure. She is a recent transplant to the Midwest and is therefore still at least 50% afraid of cornfields.

Fantastic Beasts

Bille Wickre (Art History)

Course description—Unicorns, dragons, mermaids, werewolves...humans have a long history with fantastic beasts. J. K. Rowling introduced us to a large cast of them in the Harry Potter books and movies and in her guide to these creatures, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Long before Rowling in cultures from around the world these amazing creatures appeared in the earliest art and myths and recur throughout history. In this class we will employ art history, creativity and imagination to pursue fantastic beasts through art, literature, film, mythology and history. We will even create some beasts of our own.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Art History 189: Why Art Matters.

Instructor—Bille Wickre (Ph.D. University of Michigan) is a Professor of art history in the Department of Art and Art History. Professor Wickre teaches a broad range of western art history courses, specializing in women’s art, modern and contemporary art. She is passionate about animals and lives with her own pack of “fantastic beasts.”

The Structure of Mind

Roger Albertson (Biology)

Course Description—Who am I? This seemingly simple question has fascinated humans for thousands of years. Philosophers, scientists, mystics and seekers have spent their lives in search of an elusive answer.

Using a variety of sources from metaphysics, neuroscience, developmental and social psychology, this course will explore the nature of mind. We will explore how genetics, brain chemistry and social conditioning shape one’s perception of reality and self identity. We will consider how perceptions

are influenced by mental conditions such as schizophrenia, autism and PTSD. We will also explore techniques used to expand the mind including: meditation, conceptual theory, cultural immersion, psychedelics and solo retreats.

This seminar will also examine the evolution of collective minds within tribal villages and authoritarian, capitalist and socialist societies. In doing so, we will ask how narratives conveyed through literature and media shape our perspectives and social structure. The seminar will include discussions, lectures, films, student presentations, short periods of meditation and personality tests.

Pairing— This first-year seminar will be paired to English 152: Literature Matters (Dystopian Narratives).

Instructor—Roger Albertson earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Oregon. He grew up in New Jersey and has lived five years each in Colorado, Oregon and California. He is fascinated by the various perspectives found within foreign cultures and he has visited and lived with locals in twenty foreign countries. Roger’s scientific research involves symbiotic relations: how microbes manipulate their host’s brain activity and behavior.

Captain Cook

Marcella Cervantes (Biology)

Course Description—In this course we will examine the first two voyages of Captain James Cook from a variety of perspectives. Like you, he set off on a voyage of learning. He and his crew visited new lands, experienced different cultures, and expanded the known world for Europeans. Guest speakers will help put the voyages into historical, cultural, religious, political, and scientific context. Communication between the sailors and the Polynesians was sometimes reduced to reading cultural queues, since they did not share a common language. The assumptions the Europeans made about the peoples of the South Pacific, and that the Polynesian peoples made of Europeans led to many instances of misguided gifts and miscommunication. We will share our stories of being in similar situations. Captain Cook’s skills as a mapmaker made it possible for others to follow his route. Approaching your education as an explorer, using the tools given to you, should make your time at Albion College a memorable journey. Early in the semester, we are going to learn to sail from Freyja Davis (COVID-19 developments permitting). Two years later, we will travel to Great Britain to visit the museums, gardens and ships that commemorate Captain Cook’s voyages. The trip to Britain requires a passport and a field trip fee (\$1100. - \$1300), and is subject to the college allowing travel in the future.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Religion 101: Introduction to Western Religions.

Instructor—Marcella Cervantes (Ph.D., University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center) is a cell and molecular biologist who studies mating type recognition in *Tetrahymena thermophila*, a swimming unicellular organism. She enjoys spreading the word about the wonders of *Tetrahymena* and works the topic into her Cell and Molecular Biology and Cell Biology courses whenever possible. Although

Dr. Cervantes is originally from Texas, she has also lived in Oregon, Washington, Scotland, England, California, and has now settled in Michigan. In addition to travels throughout Europe, she has had the amazing experience of travelling around the world following the first two voyages of Captain Cook. Her inspiration to travel is the same as it was for her education, there is always more to learn.

Emerging Infectious & Communicable Diseases

Ola Olapade (Biology)

Course Description—The pandemic occurrence of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) with its debilitating consequences on global public health as well as the destabilization of normal social and economic activities world-wide reemphasizes the inevitable co-existence between humans and microorganisms. To effectively mitigate against the various deleterious influences of pathogenic microbes on global populations, it is important to understand in-depth the microbial world, regarding the etiology, epidemiology and prevention as well as control of common infectious and communicable diseases. This seminar will therefore broadly explore various infectious diseases caused by microscopic germs (such as bacteria, viruses and protozoa), transferred via vectors and/or fomites (such as malaria and Lyme disease) as well as those directly communicable from person to person (including Influenza, Ebola, HIV, Herpesvirus and the human papillomavirus) through group discussions, lectures, video documentaries and relevant literatures in the fields of microbiology, virology and public health.

Pairing— This first-year seminar will be paired to Communications 241: Public Speaking.

Instructor—Ola A. Olapade (Ph. D., Kent State University) is a microbiologist with interests in Microbial Ecology, Environmental Microbiology, Bioremediation and Public Health. He teaches General Microbiology, Environmental Microbiology, Virology, and various seminars in Epidemiology and Public Health as well as the Virus Hunters and also contributes to the introductory sequence courses in the department. His research generally involves delineating the occurrences of microbial assemblages and enzymatic activities in various environments. For relaxation, he enjoys various sporting events, spending time with his family and travelling.

Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die? Health Policy in America

Greg Saltzman (Economics & Management)

Course Description—Many say that human life is infinitely valuable. But voters might not back a politician who proposes to make more funds available for health care by restricting spending on education, housing, transportation, and food assistance. Nor might they back a politician who promises to improve health by banning cigarettes, sugar-sweetened sodas, and fatty foods such as bacon cheeseburgers.

In this seminar, we will address several issues in health policy. How should the health insurance system balance cost control against access to and quality of health services? What steps should government take to discourage private behaviors that have adverse impacts on health? What can and should be done about disparities in illness and mortality across race, social class, or location? In an era of Covid-19, how should health benefits of social distancing and stay-home orders be weighed against disruption of the economy and infringement of personal liberty? This seminar is also aimed at honing your skills in analysis, writing, and speaking so that you become a more effective advocate for your views.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Economics & Management 101: Principles of Microeconomics.

Instructor—Greg Saltzman (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin – Madison) teaches economics and management. His recent courses at Albion have included principles of microeconomics, negotiation and dispute resolution, and issues in modern political economy. He also teaches a graduate course at the University of Michigan School of Public Health on health care cost-effectiveness analysis. Sadly, none of the Hollywood movie studios were interested in turning his book, *Truck Driver Occupational Safety and Health*, into a major motion picture.

River Stories: Teaching & Community Engagement

Suellyn Henke (Education) & Jason Raddatz

Course description—Students in this course will design and teach place-based lessons for local youth and community members through a unique collaboration with the Whitehouse Nature Center. The identity of the community of Albion is tied to the forks of the north and south branches of the Kalamazoo joining here. The Albion River trail connects east and west parts of town, is a through-line for the recently annexed school district, and is part of Calhoun County Trailway that also links nationally to the North Country Trail. The Whitehouse Nature Center (WNC) interpretive center sits on the banks of the Kalamazoo River and is a unique asset for connecting the college, community and area schools to the natural world. Since the devastation of the Enbridge Oil Spill in (2010) there has been an increased awareness of the cultural and environmental significance of the wild rice growing in our stretch of the river. Experience a deeper connection to place while developing teaching skills!

Pairing— This first-year seminar will be paired to Education 202: Foundational Contexts of Education.

Instructor—Suellyn Henke earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum with an emphasis on Cultural Studies at Miami University. She taught high school English in Cincinnati Public Schools and taught at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo before coming to Albion in 2002. Henke is interested in experiential learning, diversity, inclusion and equity. She teaches courses in sociocultural foundations of education and secondary education.

“What We Owe to Each Other,” or, How to Live With Others

Jessica Kane (English)

Course Description—The hit TV show *The Good Place* follows “Arizona trashbag” Eleanor Shellstrop, who dies and finds herself accidentally in The Good Place. Terrified of being found out and sent to The Bad Place, she tries to learn how to be good. Hilarity, heartstring-tugging, and profound ethical considerations somehow simultaneously ensue.

This class will use *The Good Place* and its central question of “what we owe to each other” to think about your own transition to college and adulthood. You are now a member of the Albion community and an adult in the world – what does that mean? How can you live, study, and work well as part of your communities? The past six months have made us ever more aware of how our actions impact one another, from COVID-19 to protests for racial justice. Over the course of the semester, we’ll explore how people have wrestled with the question of what we owe to each other in all kinds of situations through books, movies, music, and art. We’ll get to know our college and community. And we’ll start to figure out who we ourselves want to be.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to English 100: Writing Essentials.

Instructor—Jessica Kane (Ph.D, Michigan State University) grew up in Michigan, spent some time elsewhere, and happily came home to the Mitten State. She enjoys reading, knitting, York Peppermint Patties, sci-fi/fantasy, swing dancing, taking her dogs on walks, and talking to you about any of those things.

Real Kids, Real World

Jessica Roberts (English)

Course Description—Are you interested in kids?

Not cartoon kids. Not cute-ified kids. Not some nostalgic kids-are-so-innocent-and-simple kids. Real kids – kids who laugh, play, defy, invent, love. Kids who do beautiful things and ugly things because they live in a beautiful and ugly world that all too often fails to protect them.

If you’re interested in those kids, the real ones, this class is for you.

You’ll think about your own childhood and what made it and how it is and isn’t like the childhoods of other people. You’ll think about the institutions that shape what kids do and don’t have access to and that influence how they see themselves and how they are seen by others. Artists, writers, scholars, teachers, and local kids will help us do this work.

Pairing— This first-year seminar will be paired to English 100: Writing Essentials.

Instructor—Jess Roberts went to eight different schools before she finished seventh grade and lived in eight different states before moving here, to Albion, MI, her favorite place in the world. She loves books and believes they can change the world. She loves kids and believes they can change the world, too. She reads, writes, teaches, wears Chuck Taylors, and directs Albion’s Big Read.

Do the Write Thing: Spike Lee, Writing, and Identity

Dominick Quinney (Ethnic Studies)

Course Description—As part of the First-Year Seminar collective, this course’s primary focus is to acclimate first-year students to the culture, experience, and adjustment of college life. Students will build capacities and confidence in the foundations of college writing with preparation for the Albion College Writing Competency Exam. Further, students will learn basic concepts as they relate to identity development, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and social class, primarily through the works of Academy Award™ winning director and actor Spike Lee. Lee, a provocateur of social identities, offers unique commentary on the topics to be explored throughout the course. Students will critically engage in films, including *School Daze*, *Get on the Bus*, and *Bamboozled*. Upon completion of the course, students will have built upon their academic competencies and transition to the Albion College community.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Ethnic Studies 103: Introduction to Ethnic Studies.

Instructor—Dr. Dominick N. Quinney is an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at Albion College in Albion, Michigan. A Critical Race Theorist, he completed his doctorate in African American and African Studies at Michigan State University with a focus in Urban Education in 2013. Currently, Dominick teaches an introductory Ethnic Studies course, as well as courses with topics surrounding Education and Diversity, Social Movements, and Hip Hop for Social Change. Quinney’s qualitative research interests include the global sociopolitical development of black student activist scholars, and their academic achievement in the classroom, and understanding racial dialogue amongst diverse groups. Additionally, he has extensive research in the community engagement and development of urban high school students.

Samurai Culture through Film

Midori Yoshii (International Studies)

Course Description—The Japanese warrior class, samurai, has been long introduced and widely accepted in the world through literature and film. How are the samurai portrayed in American society? Why might this warrior class from another country be a popular image in the U.S.? This course is designed to analyze the historical development of the warrior class, the influence of Zen Buddhism on their code of conduct (Bushido), and the transformation of Bushido, comparing the depiction of the samurai in motion pictures and historical literature. Movies

studied in this course will include: *Twilight Samurai* (2002), *Kagemusha (Shadow Warrior)* (1980), *Last Samurai* (2003), *Seven Samurai* (1956), *Chushingura (47 Ronin)* (1963), and *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai* (1999). Students are expected to read and discuss pertinent literature. The purpose of this intellectual exercise is to develop participants' ability to discover common humanity in foreign cultures and to learn how to apply this approach in our understanding of the world.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Japanese 189: Pop Culture in Japan (taught in English language).

Instructor—Midori Yoshii (Ph.D., Boston University), a native of Japan, is a historian of international relations. Her past research topics include, among others, the implications of Germany's role in Japan's decision to go to war with the U.S., American naval attachés' activities in Tokyo on the eve of the Pacific war, and the impact of World War II on the lives of Japanese-American women living on the U.S. West Coast. Yoshii's most recent study analyzes the U.S. policy toward China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea in the 1960s. She taught at Boston University, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Bentley College, and Okazaki College of Foreign Studies in Japan before coming to Albion College. Being a baseball fan, she enjoys watching games at the "new" Tiger Stadium, especially when the Red Sox are in town.

Let's Move!

Heather Betz (Kinesiology)

Course description—Our bodies are meant to move and they thrive when they do! Though, how much physical activity is enough? What happens when our bodies don't get enough physical activity? In this class, we will explore the basis for our national recommendations for physical activity by reading some classic studies that explore the importance of physical activity in disease prevention. We will also explore the psychological, physiological, and behavioral costs that come with our current obesity crisis in the United States, focusing on both childhood and adult obesity. Additionally, we will move our bodies by trying different forms of physical activity (walking, yoga, Pilates, etc.) and explore the connection between physical activity and improved academic performance. Finally, we might even get to share our newfound knowledge and excitement with local elementary school children. Ready, set, let's move! This FYS section is of particular interest to students intending to enter the Wilson Institute for Medicine.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to HCI 189: Introduction to Public Health.

Instructor—Heather Betz (Ph.D., Michigan State University) was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was there that she learned the importance of physical activity and the joy that comes from moving your body, whether that is through walking, hiking, kayaking, running, rowing, or doing yoga. When she's not teaching about the human body as an Exercise Physiologist in the Kinesiology Department, she can be found running, reading, knitting, hanging out on her yoga mat, or chasing around after three daughters, two dogs, and a husband.

Grey's Anatomy & Ethics

Holly Hill (Kinesiology)

Course description—Have you ever wondered what it would be like to make some of the tough decisions faced by medical professionals every day? These choices can often be black and white, but what about the grey? Meredith Grey that is... We will be using popular movies and TV shows such as *Grey's Anatomy* to examine ethical issues faced by medical professionals both in and out of the professional setting. The class will take a look at short stories, case studies, and current events to reveal various ethical decisions we make as a society in our every day interactions with one another; as well as, the fundamental moral principles and values that underline our personal and professional lives. At the completion of this course you will have thought, discussed, and written your way through many topics such as assisted suicide, healthcare cost, truth telling, and medical experimentation in hopes of strengthening your own pillars of ethics.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology.

Instructor—Holly Hill (M.A. Western Michigan University) is a certified & licensed Athletic Trainer and Instructor in the Kinesiology Department. Having been in the field of athletic training for 10 years prior to coming to Albion College she learned the value of ethical decision making while working with high school athletes, DIV II collegiate athletes, and in the industrial setting with gas and electrical linemen. She also has a passion for functional anatomy and has been teaching in the Kinesiology department since 2014. When not in her office she can usually be found in search of the perfect cup of coffee, with her family and their corgi in tow.

At Home in France

Dianne Guenin-Lelle (Modern Languages)

Course description—What is home? How can we take home with us wherever we go? What are meaningful local-global connections in our lives where we are comfortable? In this seminar, we will develop strategies for how to engage in new situations and how to understand our personal reactions to other cultures, languages and ways of living. We will also explore why our comfort zones are what they are. The ultimate student learning outcome in "At Home in France" is for students to actually expand their own comfort zone and be more at home in the world. France will be a vehicle to explore cultures of the French-speaking countries, especially in West Africa and the Americas.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to French 101: Elementary French (intermediate French speakers will have the option to complete French 202: Intermediate French).

Instructor—Dianne is from New Orleans and got her PhD from LSU. Incorporating language learning and cultural studies, her teaching is built on the belief that learning must be relevant for students in order to transform their lives. Dianne teaches all levels of French and Francophone studies, including courses on Québec, Louisiana, "Multicultural"

France, and the history of French Women's Writing. She travels with students to France, Cameroon, Québec and Louisiana regularly. An active member of Albion's French Sister City Committee for Noisy-le-Roi and Bailly, France, she keeps her students very connected to life and opportunities in these two very special cities. A specialist in 17th century French literature, Dianne currently focuses her research on Francophone Louisiana. Her latest book is *The Story of French New Orleans: History of a Creole City* (University Press of Mississippi). Currently, she also serves as Associate Provost for Assessment and Advising. She lives in Albion with her husband Mark who makes the best French bread in town and loves sharing it with students!

RENT and the Bohemian Life

Maureen Balke (Music)

Course Description— “The bohemian life.” What does it mean? Passion, poetry, and poverty? Life, love, and art? Opposing convention and the status quo? Living for “no day but today” and “measuring lives in love”? We will study the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical “Rent” by Jonathan Larson, which is based upon the beloved Puccini opera *La Bohème*, which in turn is based upon the 1840s Parisian novel *Scènes de la vie de Bohème* by Murger. We will compare the struggles of all these “starving artists” as they “strive for success and acceptance” while enduring “obstacles of poverty, illness, and the AIDS epidemic.” Mature thematic material including issues of drugs, sexuality, discrimination, and AIDS will be discussed in the larger context of our own community, society, and the world.

Additional materials for the course include Philadelphia, the Academy Award-winning film starring Tom Hanks; Kushner's award-winning series *Angels in America*; *Moonstruck*, the Academy Award-winning film starring Cher and Nicholas Cage; and selections from the *AIDS Quilt Songbook* and from the musical *Avenue Q*. We will also discuss the autobiographical novel *Without You*, by Anthony Rapp, from the original cast of *Rent*. Note: No in-depth knowledge of musical terminology is required for this course.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Music 104: Gateway to Music (students intending to major in Music should select this FYS learning community).

Instructor—Soprano Maureen Balke (D.M. in vocal performance, Indiana University) has performed opera, musicals, and art song recitals throughout the Midwest and in several European venues, winning several competitive voice awards along the way. The desire to pursue a professional career in music developed while she grew up on a Christmas tree farm in Wisconsin with her nine siblings and parents, all of whom sang and performed music in various genres, including country/western and folk music. Always interested in poetry and languages, she has specialized in German and French art song and has released a CD of art songs by composers Joseph Marx.

Languages

Kalen Oswald (Modern Languages)

Course description—As humans we are constantly sending and receiving messages through verbal language, but rarely do we reflect on how or why that is. We take it for granted as an inherent aspect of our humanity. We often do not even think about the issue seriously until we are confronted with the desire or need to learn a second language. In this course we will attempt to understand how languages work, how they have evolved and continue to evolve, how language is acquired, how languages can influence and be influenced by community, and how learning another language can be advantageous to individuals and groups. We will also learn how to communicate some basic messages in several different languages.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to English 101: College Writing.

Instructor—Professor Kalen R. Oswald (Ph.D., The University of Arizona) grew up in the Mountain West (pronounced “Mouh'en West” in his native Utah). He has also lived in the “Four Corners” area of the United States, northwest Argentina and southern Arizona before settling in the Midwest (first Wisconsin and now Michigan). He is fascinated by cities (especially cities in Spain) and the urban process that shapes them, but prefers living in smaller towns with easy access to camping and hiking and where there is plenty of space to play with his family (wife Amy and children Taylor, Kendall, Lynnsey, Spencer and Kaya). This is his nineteenth year at Albion College, where he teaches beginning to advanced Spanish language, literature, and cultures.

Politics of National Parks in the USA

Dawid Tatarczyk (Political Science)

Course Description—In this class we will learn about America's best idea – the national parks. Using a variety of sources (books, movies etc.) our goal will be to learn how the national park system was established, developed, and sustained. We will also try to understand the value of the national park system for our society today.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Political Science 101: Politics of American Democracy.

Instructor—A native of Poland, Dawid Tatarczyk (Ph.D. Western Michigan University) is a scholar of comparative politics. He is particularly interested in the role that the Catholic Church plays in contemporary democracies. He has been teaching at Albion College since 2017. In his free time, he enjoys watching sports and reading good books.

To Sleep or Not to Sleep

Tammy Jechura (Psychology)

Course description—College life is full of exciting and important new experiences, including classes, sports, and a variety of social interactions. Sometimes it might seem as though there aren't enough hours in the day to enjoy all the opportunities available, but the only way to lengthen the day for activities is to reduce the time at night for sleep. Is sleep just a waste of time? Can we really sacrifice sleep for "more important" things?

This seminar will explore the importance of sleep and some of the factors that influence it. You will learn how sleep (and lack of it) can drastically impact learning, memory, performance in sports, sociality, and mental and physical health. We will examine the role of timing cues in our environment, from natural cues such as sunrise and sunset to the common alarm clock. We will explore how plants and animals, including humans, use environmental time cues to tell time and to navigate their world. Discussions will cover the evolutionary significance of sleep patterns among a variety of species, especially humans. We will also talk about the history of time-telling, from flower clocks and sundials to today's atomic clocks. Our bodies' natural daily cycles, circadian rhythms, and how they are affected by environmental time cues and other factors will be a significant part of the class as well. Most importantly, to tie all the topics from the class discussions together, all class participants will be both active researchers and participants in studies of human sleep/wake cycles.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychology.

Instructor—Tammy Jechura (Ph.D., University of Michigan) began exploring nature around the time that she started to crawl and has never stopped. Her love of psychology and biology has been a driving factor in the direction of her studies. As an undergraduate, she studied homing pigeons' natural navigational abilities. Her graduate work examined the role of social cues in an animal model of jet lag recovery. As the health psychologist at Albion College, she hopes to spread her enthusiasm for scientific exploration to her students through hands-on activities and practical application of class information. Besides nature, her interests include animal behavior, photography, outdoor activities, and painting.

Living the Life Fantastic: The Fantasy Literature and Authors That Have Captured the World's Imagination

Mark Hoffland (Theatre)

Course Description—Into Harry Potter? Game of Thrones? Lord of the Rings? Or even The Walking Dead? Enjoy reading about wizards, witches, dragons, dwarves, vampires, and zombies? What do you know about the authors who imagine them, and the real-world events that inspire them? In this course, we will explore the biographies and shared

inspirations of fantasy authors J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter), George R. R. Martin (Game of Thrones/A Song of Ice and Fire) J.R.R. Tolkien (The Lord of the Rings), and Robert Kirkman (The Walking Dead), as well as lesser known authors, such as Terry Pratchett (the Disc World series) and Christopher Moore (Bite Me and Scare Bleu). We will watch film adaptations, listen to interviews with the authors, and discover the inspirations for these unique worlds, characters, and storylines. We will use the medium of fantasy fiction to discuss contemporary social issues; we will read one of Pratchett's comic novels; and we will create our own fantasy-based graphic short story using Comic Life software.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Theatre 111: Introduction to Theatre Arts.

Instructor—Mark Hoffland has taught in the Department of Theatre since 2004. The ultimate "generalist", Mark has directed, designed, and built many productions in a long career. He has produced theatre with people of all ages and experience levels. He has judged on all levels of the MIFA one-act competition for three decades. He has been enjoying fantasy and science fiction novels since high school.

Intersectional Pizza: Gender, Race, Class and Food

Trisha Franzen (Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Course Description—Why do we eat so much pizza? This class asks questions about pizza and our identities. There are the obvious questions such as who eats most of the pizza and what kinds? But we keep going to deeper levels, examining who makes our pizza and who profits from our pizza eating. Overall this course considers the people who grow, harvest, process, transport, prepare and consume the ubiquitous and seemingly favorite food of young people in the United States: pizza. We will consider how the intersection of gender, race and class determine which people play which roles in these processes. In addition to reading, discussing and writing about food and culture, the class will also visit a farmers market, work in a garden, make pizza at our own wood-fired pizza oven and consider regional pizza differences.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to WGSS 111: Introduction to Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

Instructor—Trisha Franzen, professor of women's, gender & sexuality studies, loves history and food. She teaches the program's introductory courses in, women's history, feminist theory and sexuality studies. Her most recent book is *Anna Howard Shaw: The Work of Woman Suffrage*. She is the Master Gardener for the Albion Community Gardens.

Passion to Action

Amy Everhart Perry (Institutional Advancement)

Course Description—Have you ever watched a documentary, read a news story, or seen a social media post that made you feel both impassioned to take action and confused about where to start? You are not alone. It is often said that “leaders aren’t born, they’re *made*.” Or, in other words, people are not born to lead. Rather, they are *prepared* to lead. Leadership is a skill and, like all skills, it is honed through training, practice, and visualization. This class examines what it means to be a leader. Through case studies, hands-on exercises, and reflections on personal experiences, students will explore their values and develop strategies for converting their passions to action in order to better their communities. Course structure will include meetings and guest lectures with community leaders. This course will also introduce students to Albion College resources, provide opportunities to find meaningful connections on campus, and help set a foundation for success in college and beyond.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Communications 101: Introduction to Human Communications.

Instructor—Amy Everhart Perry (Albion College class of 2008; MA, Michigan State University) works in the Office of Institutional Advancement as Associate Director of Campaign and Leadership Engagement. Her master’s coursework and research in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education included a focus on teaching and learning, administration and organizational leadership, and leadership development theory/identity development theory. She is especially passionate about gender equity, has held local and statewide volunteer leadership positions for the American Association of University Women, and is a trained facilitator for AAUW’s salary negotiation workshop. In her work and volunteer life, she has built expertise in the management of volunteers, projects, events, meetings, and relationships. As a member of the Albion College community, she loves helping to connect people and resources. She is also a proud “dog mom” to two sweet and goofy German Shorthaired Pointers.

National Treasures

Elizabeth Palmer (Library)

Course Description—Does the Declaration of Independence really have a map on the back? Do you ever wish the natural history exhibits would really come to life? Museums, archives, and libraries are truly magical places. For centuries they have been centers of knowledge and learning, keepers and protectors of history. Occasionally, they have also sparked controversy over whose stories they choose to represent and whose they choose to ignore. Recently, the role of these institutions has shifted to emphasize community-building, engagement, and accessibility.

In this course we will explore the important role that museums, archives and libraries play in our society, their effect on every discipline of study, and what it might mean if we lost them.

We’ll learn about local sites and find ways to connect to your new home at Albion College through culture. Together, we will investigate these unique, beautiful, bizarre, deeply personal, innovative, and often irreplaceable National Treasures.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Anthropology 105: Introduction to Anthropology.

Instructor—Elizabeth Palmer (BA, Albion College, MS, Eastern Michigan University) is the Archivist and Special Collections Librarian for Albion College and one of the Archivists for the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. A museum lover and library enthusiast, Elizabeth has worked in a variety of roles from intern to manager to curator at the Saline Area Historical Society, Historic Mann House, Eastern Michigan University Archives, Cell Block 7 Prison Museum and the Ella Sharp Museum. When not working, Elizabeth is an active Girl Scout leader, avid reader, yogi, and enjoys baking too many baked goods for a family of two.

What is a Canadian? Canada and Search for Identity

Patrick McLean (Ford Institute)

Course Description—This class, ostensibly about Canada, focuses on a country with a mix of racial, linguistic, geographical and ethnic histories. Canadians have long been well aware of the historic dualism between their French and their English histories. Over the last two decades, however, Canadians have become more attuned to their colonial history of displacing the Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples who populated the land now called Canada. What it means to be Canadian today seems to be a more complex question than it was 50 years ago.

This search for Canadian identity, which the class will explore, provides a mirror for American students grappling with their own ideas about identity. Is America one nation? How do we bridge our country’s racial and ethnic divides? How can we and how should we meet the challenge of E Pluribus Unum (Out of many, one)? By looking at our neighbor to the north, students will develop the tools to answer these questions about America for themselves.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Political Science 103: Introduction to International Politics.

Instructor— Patrick McLean is the Director of the Gerald Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service. Prior to joining Albion in 2013, Patrick had a 20+ year career in state and local government, mostly in Ohio. He has also been studying, traveling in and researching Canada for the last 35 years. He has a BA in Political Science from the University of Dayton; an MA in Political Science from Miami University; a certificate in not for profit management and fundraising from New York University; and a second MA from Freie Universität Berlin in International Relations.

“LOADING...”: Binge Watching as a Social Justice Practice

Ashley Feagin (Art)

Course description—#blacklivesmatter #firstpridewasariot #nohumanisillegal #policereformnow #metoo #everybodyisbeautiful #timesup #justiceforgeorgefloyd #loveislove #wheelchairlife #lovewins #disabilityawareness #yesallwomen #blacktranslivesmatter. What do these hashtags reveal about social movements in the U.S., and how are these movements depicted on screen, in turn?

This course will examine how popular streaming services can act as a catalyst for understanding social justice movements and inspiring new generations of activists. In the era of #Oscarsowhite, we will examine the implications of whose stories are told, by whom and for whom. GET. READY. TO. BINGE: “The Politician”, “Dear White People”, “Handmaid’s Tale”, “Shots Fired”, “Unbelievable” and selected episodes of other contemporary shows. Together, we will explore how art connects to political action and the importance of visual representation.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Art 241: Photography I.

Instructor—Ashley Feagin (M.F.A., Louisiana Tech University, 2012) is an Associate Professor in the Art and Art History Department. In her teaching and in her art, Ashley challenges her students and her viewers to explore how we build stories—and also participate in the storytelling process—through photographs, installations, performances, and collaborations. She has presented at both regional and national conferences of the Society for Photographic education on the importance and application of creating an inclusive curriculum and classroom community.

Science Stories

Kevin Metz (Chemistry)

Course Description—If you love science and like stories, or if you love stories and like science, this could be the seminar for you. We are going to look at how science and scientists are represented in stories. That is, we will examine the science and scientists in literature, comic books, and movies. We will consider questions such as: “Can you really grow potatoes on Mars?” or “Where does vibranium belong on the periodic table?” We will look at how science fiction leads to scientific discovery (did the tricorder lead to the iPhone?), as well as how scientific discovery creates the best science fiction (sheep were cloned before dinosaurs!). We will look at how stories present scientists. Then we will compare these representations with stories about real scientists. Many of the sources we will consider will be drawn from the interests and experiences of the class.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Chemistry 152: Principles of Chemistry.

Instructor—Dr. Kevin Metz is a professor of chemistry and a perpetually curious science nerd. As a child, armed with a pocket microscope, he sought to understand the physical world we live in. He peppered his parents with questions such as “What is wood made of?” and “How do they make carpeting?” His mother’s constant response was “you can read, you can teach yourself.” In the process of learning for himself two things happened. Dr. Metz fell in love with stories about science, scientists, and science fiction; and, he completed a Ph. D. in Materials Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Now, armed with some understanding of how things are put together, Dr. Metz works with student researchers to create new materials to solve environmental problems.

Public Policy in Film

Drew Christopher (Psychology)

Course Description—One of the many benefits of living in a democracy is the freedom to hold your own opinion on an issue. In this course, we will examine a number of current issues being debated by public policy experts in the United States. The purpose of examining these concerns is not to provide answers to any issues we are currently facing, but rather, to help you learn how to formulate a position on these various issues by considering multiple perspectives on each one. To do so, we will view films that deal with topics including but not limited to health care, corporate ethics, foreign policy, and drug legalization. Through film viewings, readings, papers, and class discussions, you will explore not only important current issues in public policy, but more importantly, you will learn how to formulate an opinion using data from various sources. In doing so, you will also learn how almost any source of information can be biased, and therefore, you will need to understand how to try to correct for that bias.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Psychology 101: Introduction to Psychology.

Instructor—Drew Christopher is a teacher in the psychology department. He has taught at Albion for 19 years, teaching not only in that department, but in the Honor’s College and of course the First-Year Experience Program. Drew enjoys teaching first-year seminars because they give him the chance to meet students with a wide range of interests and help them find their direction in college. Drew was an undergraduate student at Stetson University (in Florida) and he got his graduate degrees from the University of Florida. Outside of school, he likes working out (sometimes) so that he can eat the often less-than-healthy dishes he likes to cook and not feel guilty, learning about history (especially that of the Middle East), traveling (New Orleans and Las Vegas are his favorite American destinations), and entertaining his two beagles. He also likes to watch and play sports and is a fan of SEC football and Boston-area professional teams.

Making Medicine: How Science, Politics, and Money Shape the Drugs We Take

Craig Streu (Chemistry)

Course Description—Pharmaceuticals are big business in America. Global trade treaties, the stock market, and most importantly, our health, rely on developments in this rapidly evolving industry. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the world’s collective hopes have rested on the industry like never before. How does it work and why should we all care? This course will examine the types of pharmaceuticals, how each works, and how they are discovered, developed, advertised and ultimately brought to market. The course will have a distinct focus on the science behind drugs, but it is impossible to separate the science of drug discovery from the business of drug sales and so the course will often and unavoidably diverge into topics of ethics, marketing, and economics.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Biology 210: Cell & Molecular Biology (students may select a preference for this seminar, but will ultimately be placed by the Wilson Institute for Healthcare Professions).

Instructor—Dr. Craig Streu (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) is a biochemist with an avid interest in molecular interventions for human health, otherwise known as drugs. He runs a bustling research lab where he works with students to develop therapeutic drugs of all types, although his most recent work focuses on cancer drugs and antibiotics. When he’s not in the lab he enjoys soccer, cycling, hiking and generally being outdoors with his family and dog.

Global Weirding: Climate Change Impacts and Solutions

Thom Wilch (Geology)

Course Description—It is an astounding fact that the ten hottest years on record globally have occurred in your lifetime. In this seminar we will learn about how climate has changed—it’s not just getting warmer on average, it’s also getting weirder, with more extreme events. We’ll look at the numbers and work to understand what the science is saying. We’ll also examine how climate change is a ‘threat multiplier’ with widespread impacts on public health, severe weather, flooding, forest fires, the economy, and more. The impacts are greatest on people who are disadvantaged, both in the US and globally. And, finally we’ll study solutions at individual, local, national, and international levels. We’ll use sophisticated online simulators to assess the efficacy of different solutions. The final team project will be to develop and propose a realistic set of climate change solutions.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Geology 101: Introductory Geology.

Instructor—Thom Wilch (Ph.D. New Mexico Tech) loves geology, especially teaching about and doing research on glaciers, volcanoes, and climate change. He is interested in exploring how geology affects our lives and how humans

affect the environment. Thom’s research travels include trips to Iceland, Hawaii, Italy, New Zealand, and ten research expeditions to Antarctica. Recently he spent time in Washington D.C. facilitating climate research in Antarctica. Thom lives near campus in Albion and enjoys socializing, hiking, biking, and gardening.

The Arts & The Holocaust

David Abbott (Music)

Course Description—This course will explore the social/political upheaval of Europe from 1930-1945 with WWII with an emphasis how musicians and artists were affected and the entire world of the arts were being manipulated for political purposes. We see today how entire groups of people are being treated as undesirables, ostracized and even deported all because of their ethnic background. Much of society in Europe during the years up to WWII simply chose to stand apart and witness these acts rather than risk getting involved. Many students at colleges across the country are facing rampant discrimination and treated as second-class members of society. We will discuss the concept of being part of a community here at Albion and throughout the world. Students will study and learn about the conditions and climate for artistic expression, including music composed under socialist patronage as well as a reaction or resistance to government and social repression. This will include works created and performed in ghettos and concentration camps in situations of extreme impoverishment, cruelty and terror. These activities constitute artistic attempts at survival, witness and resistance. We will read first person testimonials of people who were ostracized and in many cases, sent for camps for extermination as part of the “final solution”. The class will view documentaries about courageous individuals who resisted efforts to remove them from society and also see films such as “Monuments Men” and “The Woman in Gold” depicting how art was viewed and dismissed subjectively according to narrow social and political perspectives. The class will also travel to the Holocaust Museum in Dearborn, MI (school policy permitting) and hear stories first-hand from a holocaust survivor.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Religion 101: Introduction to Western Religions.

Instructor—David Abbott is a versatile pianist equally at home in chamber music or solo performance both on modern as well as historical instruments. He resided for ten years in Switzerland performing both as soloist and collaborative artist throughout Switzerland and Germany and toured in Australia and Europe as a member of the *Swiss Chamber Soloists*. His recording of Schumann’s piano quartet and quintet won the coveted *Prix d’Or* prize for outstanding chamber music recording. Dr. Abbott has served on the faculties of the Zürich and Schaffausen Conservatories of Music (Switzerland), and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA). He has directed summer courses in both piano and chamber music in Europe as well as in the United States for over 30 years. He appears frequently in recitals in many college campuses and music festivals across the country. He was awarded a Bronze medal and two special prizes at the 1980 International Music Competition in Geneva. He recorded a two-CD recording set

of solo and chamber music by 20th century composer Dmitri Shostakovich. He recently completed a sabbatical project researching and performing the solo piano and chamber music of Johannes Brahms. He has been a member of the faculty of Albion College, Albion, MI since 2005 where he is Professor of Piano, Chamber Music, and Music History.

Science, Truth and Other Enigmas

Jeremy Kirby (Philosophy)

Course Description—There is a substantive difference between, for example, astrology and astronomy. The latter conforms to the practices of our best scientific thinking, while the former is a pseudo-science at best. But how might one explain the difference between pseudo-science and real science? It might be suggested that scientists rely upon observation and obtain better predictive results than pseudo-scientists. Astrologists, however, rely upon observation, and they are rarely mistaken in their predictions. Perhaps, then, what distinguishes pseudo-science from real science is that the hypotheses of the latter may be disconfirmed while the ‘conjectures’ of the former will hold, come what may. However, Charles Darwin’s critics accuse him of dealing in platitudes as well, and few of Darwin’s supporters would want to classify him among the pseudo-scientists. The principle of natural selection is all about “the survival of the fittest.” And, as the critics will ask, who are the fittest, if not those who survive? Distinguishing pseudo-science from science is, thus, easier said than done. But this is precisely what we shall endeavor to do in this course.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy.

Instructor—Jeremy Kirby teaches and writes on issues concerning the history of philosophy and the history of science. He has published two books concerning Aristotle’s approach to science and a number of articles relating to the history of philosophy. He lives in Albion, MI.

Yo-Duh! The Force of Communication in Star Wars

Karen Erlandson (Communication Studies)

Course Description—A long time ago in a galaxy far far away...

Actually, on May 25, 1977 in Hollywood, *Star Wars: A New Hope* was released in Theaters and changed the course of movie making and marketing forever. Using the lens of Social Science (even more powerful than the force) this seminar will include student presentations, discussion, lectures, films and documentaries to explore various themes inside the Star Wars Universe and their impact on our world outside of it.

Much like Luke first arriving in Mos Eisley, the transition to college can be confusing and there is much to learn. As part of the First-Year Seminar collective, this course’s primary focus is to acclimate first-year students to the culture, experience, and adjustment of college life.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Communications 213: Intercultural Communications.

Instructor—Karen Erlandson (Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara) is Chair of the Communication Studies Department and a Michigan native. She studies Interpersonal Communication and teaches courses including Communication Gender, Intercultural Communication, and Persuasion. She likes to travel, especially to places with ruins of ancient human civilizations. She has spent some time in Spain (a place with a lot of cool ruins) and continues to develop her Spanish language skills.

Black Cinema in the US & Latin America

Elizabeth Barrios (Modern Languages)

Course Description—*Black Cinema in the U.S. and Latin America*: By watching and analyzing movies made by African American and Afro-Latinx filmmakers, you will learn about the histories, cultures, and current struggles of black communities throughout the Western Hemisphere. The films and assigned readings will explore why and how English and Spanish-speaking colonies created specific ideas about race, which continue impacting life throughout the Americas. You will also examine the ways in which black activists and artists from diverse cultural, national, and linguistic backgrounds have strived for greater recognition, equity, and justice. Students fluent in Spanish will have the option to complete many of their written assignments in Spanish. During the semester the class will plan a Junior-year trip to a significant site for the African Diaspora in the Americas.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to History 131: US History to the Civil War.

Instructor—Elizabeth Barrios (Ph.D., University of Michigan) teaches in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. She graduated from another Midwestern, small liberal arts school, and is an immigrant from Venezuela. Her family has been living in Aurora, Illinois since she was 12. In her teaching and writing, Elizabeth explores the ways in which our cultures and languages teach us to see and value some things, while we ignore and undervalue others. Her classes delve into why in the U.S. we learn to see Latin America as poor and exotic, and learn to ignore the region’s immense diversity, as well as the ways in which the United States is itself Latin American in its history, territory, and culture. Her research explores how in order to see automobiles as symbols of prosperity and freedom, we must simultaneously learn to ignore the infrastructure of the oil industry and the damage it inflicts on extraction sites in places like her home country.

Berlin and the City as Identity: From Babylon to Start Up Culture

Andrea Schmidt (Modern Languages)

Course Description—This course will survey 20th century German history through a study of Berlin, the nation's previous and now renewed capital city. Throughout Germany's modern history the city has been a hub for intellectual debate, artistic creativity, and political bravado and conflict. Thus Berlin has served as a crucible for Germany's empire and the disaster of World War I, the cultural vitality of Germany's Weimar era, the malicious evils of Nazi fanatics (Hitler's Berlin), Communist utopias and artificial divisions (East Berlin and The Wall) after World War II, and now once again, capital of a united Germany and Europe's "coolest" city. In this course we will explore literary depictions, film, political essays, and historical texts to re-construct Germany's modern history traced through Berlin's extraordinary transformations.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to German 101: Elementary German.

Instructor—Originally from Fargo, North Dakota (just like the film/TV show!), Dr. Andrea Schmidt has spent her academic career in both Europe and the United States. Her research areas include German film and television, nineteenth century literatures, as well as "costume dramas." 1/8 Berliner, she spent a research year at the Humboldt and tries to return as often as possible. She would eat all the German desserts, but her favorite is Quarktasche.

Hawaii and the Himalayas: Geology, Ecology and Cultures of the Tallest Mountains on Earth

Carrie Menold (Geology)

Course Description—This is a discussion-based class exploring the geology and cultures around the world's tallest peaks, Mt. Everest (Himalayas) and Mauna Kea (Hawai'i). Most people know Mt. Everest is tall but measured from its ocean base Mauna Kea is even bigger! A fundamental question we will seek to answer is why mountains exist and why are these two mountains so much taller than any others. We will investigate the geological forces that create (and destroy) mountains, and learn why their locations are not random. The Himalayas and Hawai'i also have distinct cultures linked with their unique geology and ecology. They are also places with fragile ecosystems severely impacted by global warming. We will spend time learning about Tibetan and Hawai'ian cultural practices and their links to mountain environments – for example, the Tibetan practice of walking around holy mountains and the Hawai'ian goddess Pele's association with the volcano. Several other mountain-related themes will also be examined, including their presence as natural barriers that both invited and impeded invasion, their importance as unique ecosystems, and their role as nature's water towers. As we explore these topics we will do so with a focus on college academic preparation and transition from high school: instruction in college-level reading, writing and

class discussion, time-management, finding and using sources for research papers as well as participate in a variety hands-on activities (several of which will be outdoors). Covid-19 will not allow our class to go on our normal trip to big island of Hawai'i to examine the active volcano, the effects of climate change and a unique mountain culture during the 2020-2021 year. If travel becomes possible, we will run the trip next year.

Pairing—This first-year seminar will be paired to Geology 104: Earth Resources & the Environment.

Instructor—Carrie Menold (Ph.D., UCLA) is the chair of the Geology Department. Her teaching focuses on rock and mineral studies as well as environmental geology courses. She uses geochemistry and field work to study mountain-building, looking at the first rocks to collide as mountains begin to form. Those rocks end up in the middle of the tallest parts of mountain ranges as collision proceeds, so her field study areas are in the high Himalaya of India (Ladakh) and the mountains of northern Scandinavia.

Notes:



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