

FRINQ COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

Basic Information

Known on campus as FRINQ, First Year Inquiry provides students the academic and social foundation to integrate their university experience by engaging them in transformative learning experiences with their fellow students.

Built around a theme of inquiry, over the course of a year, each FRINQ provides students a place to examine challenging course topics through a variety of perspectives while gaining knowledge and skills they will need in their other courses and career.

Staying in the same small class for the year helps students transition to Portland State and allows them to build friendships with students from a variety of majors.

Each FRINQ is:

- Interdisciplinary (examines a subject using arts & humanities, social science, and natural science).
- Reading, writing, and research-intensive.
- Experiential and integrates community-based learning.
- Focused on developing the whole student.
- Address the four University Studies Goals.
- Participation and discussion-based.
- Emphasizes critical self-reflection on learning.
- A learning community of peers.
- Taught at the same time and by the same professor each term.
- Supported by a Peer Mentored Inquiry section.

Five Important things to know:

- First Year Inquiry has a main section and a Mentor Inquiry section that are held at the same time all year—find out when courses in your major will be in Winter and Spring terms to avoid conflicts.
- First Year Inquiry is cumulative—a student must pass each term to take the next section.
- Stay with your cohort—the shared, year-long experience is a critical benefit. If something comes up, a student should contact University Studies for help in switching to another class.
- If you have more than 29 transfer credits, double check with your Advisor.
- First Year Inquiry transfers to other schools as 4 credits Social Science, 4 credits Arts and Letters, 3 credits Science literacy and 4 credits Writing (WR 121Z).

FRINQ COURSE GUIDE

CREATIVITY IN ACTION

Description

This yearlong course is designed for incoming first year students with an interest in creative fields like art practices, graphic design, music, architecture, and theater. Students will explore creativity through project-based learning, research, and community partnerships. They will learn how to practice creativity in a variety of interdisciplinary contexts. This Creativity in Action FRINQ is aligned with PSU's Design, Creativity and Performance pathway, and will cultivate community for students across creative disciplines at PSU.

Course Listings

**Section reserved for students majoring or minoring in COTA, Design, Creativity and Performance*

***Section reserved for residence life programming*

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	*154A	001	CREATIVITY IN ACTION	Newlands	TR 1100-1240
UNST	154A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1330-1420
UNST	154A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1430-1520
UNST	154A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1530-1620
UNST	*154B	001	CREATIVITY IN ACTION	Swinehart	TR 1100-1240
UNST	154B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1330-1420
UNST	154B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1430-1520
UNST	154B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1530-1620
UNST	**154C	001	CREATIVITY IN ACTION	Newlands	TR 1330-1510
UNST	154C	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1530-1620
UNST	154C	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1630-1720
UNST	154C	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newlands	R 1730-1820
UNST	**154D	001	CREATIVITY IN ACTION	Swinehart	TR 1330-1510
UNST	154D	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1530-1620
UNST	154D	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1630-1720
UNST	154D	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Swinehart	R 1730-1820

Faculty



Sarah Newlands

Sarah Wolf Newlands is an artist who has been actively involved in museum education since she began giving tours at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis in the mid-1990s. Sarah's students at Portland State collaborate with local schools and museums (Portland Art Museum, Childpeace Montessori School, The Museum of Contemporary Craft, and The Portland Classical Chinese Garden.) Students who work on these community-based learning projects design and lead tours, and create videos, blogs,

visual and time-based art. Sarah received an MFA from Portland State University and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her own artwork brings together the language of formal abstraction with commonplace everyday things, using repetition and process as methods of transformation.



Michelle Swinehart

Michelle Swinehart is a professor in University Studies at Portland State University.

FAILURE

Description

Failure is a pervasive aspect of life, and some of the biggest stressors in college are performance, deadlines, and grades. College students generally fear failure, try to avoid failure, and try to play it safe. While failure is not an absolute necessity for learning, there is no question that it can be an incredibly powerful and efficient teacher, especially when combined with mentorship, guidance, and positive experiences. In this course, students will explore how to turn failure into opportunities for learning by embracing instead of trying to avoid failure. The key is to approach failure with a constructive mindset, viewing it as an opportunity for growth and improvement in order to become increasingly resilient. Students will learn how to "fail better" by embracing,

examining, and experiencing failure. They will learn from failure toward fostering a mindset of continuous improvement, adaptability, and resilience. It is not the absence of failure but the ability to learn and evolve from it that defines personal and collective success. The theme was created by former first year students.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	157A	001	FAILURE	Teuscher	MW 0900-1050
UNST	157A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Teuscher	W 1100-1150
UNST	157A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Teuscher	W 1200-1250
UNST	157A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Teuscher	W 1300-1350

Faculty



Christof Teuscher

Christof Teuscher is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at Portland State University (PSU) with joint appointments in the Department of Computer Science and the Systems Science Graduate Program. Dr. Teuscher obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) in 2000 and 2004 respectively. Dr. Teuscher's research goal is to develop disruptive new computing paradigms and machines that will allow for lasting breakthroughs and open new application domains in the next 5-20 years. His team uses an interdisciplinary approach and applies tools from computer science, computer engineering, physics, biology, complex systems science, and cognitive science to the study and the design of next generation computing models and architectures. Dr. Teuscher obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) in 2000 and 2004 respectively.

HEALTH, HAPPINESS, & HUMAN RIGHTS

Description

This course examines the nature and state of healthy individuals and populations in their various environments. A dynamic approach is used to study the places where people live and interact, such as the community, the workplace, and the natural environment. Specific emphasis will be given to the intersections between health, communities (both local and global), and human rights and the impact on happiness.

Course Listings

****Section reserved for residence life programming**

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	**144A	001	HEALTH HAPPINESS HUMAN RIGHTS	Estes	MW 0900-1040
UNST	144A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	W 1100-1150
UNST	144A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	W 1200-1250
UNST	144A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	W 1330-1420
UNST	144B	001	HEALTH HAPPINESS HUMAN RIGHTS	Trimble	TR 1330-1510
UNST	144B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Trimble	T 1530-1620
UNST	144B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Trimble	T 1630-1720
UNST	144B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Trimble	T 1730-1820
UNST	144D	001	HEALTH HAPPINESS HUMAN RIGHTS	Margolis	TR 1553-1710
UNST	144D	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Margolis	R 1200-1250
UNST	144D	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Margolis	R 1330-1420
UNST	144D	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Margolis	R 1430-1520

UNST	144E	001	HEALTH HAPPINESS HUMAN RIGHTS	Estes	MW 1100-1240
UNST	144E	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	M 1300-1420
UNST	144E	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	M 1430-1520
UNST	144E	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Estes	M 1530-1620
UNST	144G	001	HEALTH HAPPINESS HUMAN RIGHTS	Malholtra	MW 1330-1510
UNST	144G	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Malholtra	W 1530-1620
UNST	144G	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Malholtra	W 1630-1720
UNST	144G	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Malholtra	W 1730-1820

Faculty



Neera Malhotra

Dr. Neera Malhotra has more than fifteen years of experience as an educator and teaches full-time at Portland State University within a general education program, University Studies. Currently, she teaches first-year college class Human/Nature and a Capstone class Healing Trauma and Communities. Her scholarship and classes focus on the foundations of Interpersonal Neurobiology to understand what it means to be a human, how oppression (systemic and internalized) related to race, gender, sexuality, and dis/ability impacts us as humans, the relationship of humans and nature. In every class, you will enjoy indigenous contemplative practices, such as reflective writing, nature connection, art (movement and visual) and interpersonal dialogues to explore the human/nature connection. She sees herself as a student of life, mother nature, and fellow human beings. Often students who graduate from her classes refer to this class as not only a platform to learn academic writing skills but also to learn the way of life and how the mind and body works together!



Karen Margolis

One of the beauties of this yearlong course is that we have time to get to know one another, explore ourselves and the stories that shape our identities, create a sense of community within the classroom, and work collaboratively to design a place of mutual respect where deep learning and engaging conversations can take place, a place where we feel playful and safe enough to express our ideas and that fosters creativity and curiosity. We will engage in mindfulness and writing practice, really thinking about how these practices help us tap into our creativity and inner wisdom, recognize our flashes of insight and learn to trust our instincts and intuition, and how they ultimately empower us to act on the courage of our convictions. In a world that needs healing, we need young people with the vision to imagine a better, more humane world and the courage to forge new pathways and create a brighter future for themselves and for their children. My hope is that these practices will help plant a seed of inspiration and allow you to imagine what is possible. As far as content, we will engage in conversations around some important issues – racism, education, White Supremacy, systems of oppression, the power of language/narrative to shape our national and personal identity. We will also enter new conversations regarding the criminal justice system, the “War on Drugs,” climate change, social media, misinformation, the deep division in our country, Covid, voting rights, cancel culture, negativity bias, and the mental health crisis among our nation’s youth

**Anmarie Trimble**

I'm a musician and neuroscience enthusiast with a degree in English. I started college pre-medicine, but took a right turn when I fell in love with poetry during a required writing class in college. While teaching first year Inquiry, I've discovered these diverse interests intersect in interesting ways--for example, how the current science around trauma connects to the power of stories (whether fiction or life stories). In addition to teaching first year Inquiry and Senior Capstone for University Studies, I'm affiliate faculty with the Indigenous Nations Studies program at PSU. Prior to teaching at PSU, I worked in the multimedia revolution developing story content for the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle and other organizations, and edited the now-retired Born Magazine (www.bornmagazine.org), which helped pioneer literary arts on the Web. I teach Health, Happiness & Human Rights first year Inquiry, which examines what contributes to healthy individuals, populations, and environments such as our communities, workplaces, and nature. In this class we employ the [four University Studies goals](#) as we explore the intersections between health, communities (both local and global), and human rights and the impact on happiness.

**"J.R." Jones Estes**

J.R Jones Estes is a professor in University Studies at Portland State University.

HUMAN/NATURE

Description

The human animal is considered to be both a part of and yet distinct from nature. This relationship between our human selves and the natural world we inhabit is complicated and perplexing. This theme explores the complex connections between humans and nature. Is there such a thing as human nature, and if so, what is it? How are we related to nature and the larger natural world? Over the course of the year, we will attempt to answer questions like these, drawing on the resources of the social and biological sciences, history, literature, and the arts.

Course Listings

****Section is condensed 7 cr. Fall Term**

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	**189B	001	HUMAN/NATURE	Haeffner	MW 1100-1240
UNST	**189B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Haeffner	W 1330-1420
UNST	**189B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Haeffner	W 1430-1520
UNST	**189B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Haeffner	W 1530-1620
UNST	117A	001	HUMAN/NATURE	Spencer	MW 1530-1710
UNST	117A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	W 1730-1820
UNST	117A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	W 1830-1920
UNST	117A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	W 1930-2020
UNST	117B	001	HUMAN/NATURE	Spencer	MW 1100-1240
UNST	117B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	M 1330-1420
UNST	117B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	M 1430-1520
UNST	117B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Spencer	M 1530-1620

Faculty



Melissa Haeffner

Dr. Haeffner received her PhD from Colorado State University (CSU) in the Graduate Degree Program of Ecology, with a specialization in human-environment interactions.



Randy Spencer

Randy Spencer will be teaching 2 sections of Human/Nature in University Studies AY 25-26.

IMMIGRATION, MIGRATION, & BELONGING

Description

The movement of people across borders is a central political and cultural issue throughout the world. Although many are aware of the mobility of goods and capital in a global economy, we tend to be less aware of the movement of people in the global economic system and we also tend to forget that the movement of people, both as workers and as refugees, is not a new phenomenon.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	147A	001	MIGRATION & BELONGING	Fernandez	MW 1100-1240
UNST	147A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	W 1330-1420
UNST	147A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	W 1430-1520
UNST	147A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	W 1530-1620
UNST	147B	001	MIGRATION & BELONGING	Fernandez	MW 1330-1510
UNST	147B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	M 1530-1620
UNST	147B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	M 1630-1720
UNST	147B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fernandez	M 1730-1820

Faculty



Oscar Fernandez, Ph.D.

Dr. Óscar Fernández (Comparative Literature) specializes in inter-American studies, literary theory, and the intersection of culture, sexuality, and representations of disease in Iberoamerican literature. Additionally, he examines experiences by contingent faculty and QT/BIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, indigenous, people of color) students in higher education

Metamorphosis

Description

Metamorphosis is the ancient Greek name for “shape-changing”. This course investigates the process of change in human culture: how do we envision and experience transformation in ourselves, our communities, and our world? How do we shape and interact with each other and with our environments? Can we be agents of change? What tools for transformation can we employ? Through an interdisciplinary perspective, examining stories and narratives, history, art, poetry, popular culture and science, we will approach a better understanding of how the process of change is fundamental to our life experience and to our sense of being.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	164A	001	METAMORPHOSIS	Arthur	TR 0900-1040
UNST	164A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Arthur	T 1100-1150
UNST	164A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Arthur	T 1200-1250
UNST	164A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Arthur	T 1330-1420
UNST	164B	001	METAMORPHOSIS	Newton-Calvert	WEB
UNST	164B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Newton-Calvert	WEB

Faculty



Deb Smith Arthur

Deb Smith Arthur practiced criminal defense and juvenile law for 10 years. She created PSU's Higher Education in Prison program and is on state and national policy committees related to that work.



Zapoura Newton-Calvert

Hi! I'm Zapoura Newton-Calvert, and I've been teaching writing and community-based courses about social justice in education since 2004. My community work has led to partnerships with organizations like Libraries for Liberation, the Children's Book Bank, Teaching for Change, and local schools. In 2016, I co-founded a community organization called *Reading Is Resistance*, which supports youth and adults in using children's literature to imagine and work toward collective liberation.

In our FRINQ class, we will build a strong learning community—one that's anti-oppression, rooted in strong relationships, and responsive to what's happening in the world around us.

PORTLAND

Description

How do our surroundings shape our lives? How do we shape our surroundings? In this course, the complex relationship between people and the places in which we live, recreate, and work is explored. We specifically focus on Portland: its place as a context for human development and cultural expression; its place as an urban area of diverse communities; and its place within the natural, material, and social environment of the Pacific Northwest.

Course Listings

****section reserved for residence life programming**

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	**107B	001	PORTLAND	Batchelder	TR 1100-1240
UNST	107B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1330-1420

UNST	107B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1430-1520
UNST	107B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1530-1620
UNST	107C	001	PORTLAND	Serbulo	MW 1100-1240
UNST	107C	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	W 0900-0950
UNST	107C	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	W 1000-1050
UNST	107C	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	W 1330-1420
UNST	107E	001	PORTLAND	Serbulo	MW 1330-1510
UNST	107E	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	M 1530-1620
UNST	107E	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	M 1630-1720
UNST	107E	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Serbulo	M 1730-1820
UNST	107K	001	PORTLAND	Batchelder	TR 1330-1510
UNST	107K	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1530-1620
UNST	107K	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1630-1720
UNST	107K	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Batchelder	T 1730-1820

Faculty



Leslie Batchelder

Dr. Batchelder has lived and worked in Germany and is fluent in German. Her focus is on German popular culture and minority cultures. She is a campus leader in PebblePad implementation and in using ePortfolios as a high-impact practice in teaching; she is also 5-year Sustainability fellow teaching about climate change and sustainability, as well as a PSU Futures fellow studying how PSU can help students craft impactful and creative digital identities.



Leanne Serbulo

Hi, my name is Leanne Serbulo. I teach Portland first year Inquiry. I earned my doctorate in Urban Studies and Planning from Portland State University. I research how urban social movements shape cities. In my Portland FRINQ classes, we learn how cities function and change. We explore the history of Portland, as well as the city's contemporary issues and challenges. Students have opportunities to delve into their own areas of interests. We also go on field trips!

ON DEMOCRACY

Description

We will explore how democracy functions and evaluate its relevance in a time of political, economic, and environmental crisis. We will examine how the rise of digital media, polarization and extremism, and political paralysis in response to existential issues like climate change pose challenges to democratic norms and ideals. We will also consider how individual and societal interventions such as media literacy, atrocity prevention, community building, and protest movements can address these fundamental challenges to democracy.

Students will design and participate in community-based learning activities that increase civic engagement and address large-scale social and ecological issues.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	111A	001	ON DEMOCRACY	Sager	WEB
UNST	111A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Sager	WEB
UNST	111B	001	ON DEMOCRACY	Gerwing	TR 0900-1040
UNST	111B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Gerwing	T 1100-1150
UNST	111B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Gerwing	T 1200-1250
UNST	111B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Gerwing	T 1330-1420
UNST	111C	001	ON DEMOCRACY	Bergland	TR 0900-1040
UNST	111C	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bergland	T 1100-1150
UNST	111C	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bergland	T 1200-1250
UNST	111C	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bergland	T 1330-1420

Faculty



Daneen Bergland

I'm a Teaching Assistant Professor and have taught full-time in the University Studies program at PSU since 2010. I teach interdisciplinary general education courses for sophomores and juniors, including Examining Popular Culture and American Identities, and I am so excited to teach first year Inquiry starting in 2023! I study and teach about media literacy, civic engagement, and political polarization. I'm also a poet, and currently an editor for Airlie Press, a non-profit collective press publishing poetry from the Pacific Northwest.



Jeff Gerwing

Dr. Gerwing has a doctorate in Ecology from Pennsylvania State University. His major fields include: forest ecology and management, especially: ecosystem services, water quality, biodiversity conservation, timber production, and recreation. He is an ardent advocate of sustainability education.



Alex Sager

Alex Sager is Professor of Philosophy and University Studies at Portland State University. He is a social and political philosopher who writes primarily on the philosophy of migration. His books include *Against Borders: Why the People of the World Need Free Movement* (Off the Fence Series: Rowman & Littlefield International, 2020, Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2020) and *Toward a Cosmopolitan Ethics of Mobility: The Migrant's Eye View* (Palgrave Pivot, 2018). He is also active in philosophy for K-12 students, developing the Philosophy for Children capstone and founding the Oregon High School Ethics Bowl in 2015.

POWER & IMAGINATION

Description

This course explores the interwoven relationships among domination, resistance, and empowerment--from the interpersonal to the global--through the stories of power and perception as they are represented in art and literature, science, and politics. Historical and contemporary case studies will help us understand the positive consequences and potential dangers of mythmaking.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	141C	001	POWER AND IMAGINATION	Rachmuth	MW 0900-1040
UNST	141C	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rachmuth	M 1100-1150
UNST	141C	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rachmuth	M 1200-1250
UNST	141C	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rachmuth	M 1330-1420

Faculty



Moshe Rachmuth

What makes a good person? How can I improve my writing? What strategies can I use to make life better for my community without hurting others? How can I make others follow me? How do I get a perfect GPA? What is the minimum number of words I can write in this course and still get an "A"? If you care about the first three questions, please consider this class, as I'm honored to serve students who want to do good, and I can help with writing advice and strategic thinking.

RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Description

This course will study biology that undermines the concept of race itself; sociology that defines the concept as socially constructed; a history that is not acknowledged in standard K-12 texts; and literature that opens a diversity of windows onto the experience of race. Through both increased knowledge and personal reflection, students can develop capabilities useful to the work of moving U.S. society past its racial dilemma.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	101A	001	RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE	Rodriguez Fernandez	MW 1100-1240
UNST	101A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rodriguez	M 1300-1420
UNST	101A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rodriguez	M 1430-1520
UNST	101A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Rodriguez	M 1530-1620
UNST	101B	001	RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE	Robbins	MW 1330-1510
UNST	101B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Robbins	M 1530-1620
UNST	101B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Robbins	M 1630-1720
UNST	101B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Robbins	M 1730-1820

SUSTAINABILITY

Description

Although we often think of the natural world as separate from our largely urban lives, our most basic needs such as nutritious food to eat, clean air to breathe, and clean water to drink depend on the health of the natural systems of which we are a part. This course explores the interconnectedness of global systems (including physical, ecological, cultural, social, and economic) and their impact on the world.

Course Listings

**Section reserved for students majoring or minoring in Business.*

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	124A	002	SUSTAINABILITY	Butenhoff	TR 1530-1710
UNST	124A	006	MENTORED INQUIRY	Butenhoff	T 1730-1820
UNST	124A	007	MENTORED INQUIRY	Butenhoff	R 1430-1520
UNST	124A	008	MENTORED INQUIRY	Butenhoff	R 1730-1820
UNST	124B	002	SUSTAINABILITY	Perkins	MW 0900-1050
UNST	124B	006	MENTORED INQUIRY	Perkins	M 1100-1150
UNST	124B	007	MENTORED INQUIRY	Perkins	M 1200-1250
UNST	124B	008	MENTORED INQUIRY	Perkins	M 1330-1420
UNST	*124C	002	SUSTAINABILITY	Toombs	MW 1330-1510
UNST	124C	006	MENTORED INQUIRY	Toombs	M 1530-1620
UNST	124C	007	MENTORED INQUIRY	Toombs	M 1630-1720
UNST	124C	008	MENTORED INQUIRY	Toombs	M 1730-1820

Faculty



Christopher Butenhoff

Dr. Christopher Butenhoff is an atmospheric scientist in the Dept. of Physics. His research interests include climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, atmospheric transport modeling, interactions between vegetation and the atmosphere, and climate change mitigation policy.

Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Inherent in this definition is the tension between socioeconomic development and the environment. In this Sustainability FRINQ, students will explore the tension between the environment and development and develop their own capacities to see the world through the lens of sustainability, so they can better understand the impacts of individual and societal actions. Throughout the year, students will critically evaluate what sustainability means and apply concepts of sustainability to multiple systems, including the U.S. food system, earth’s climate and energy. Students will evaluate their own ethical worldviews and the ethics of current environmental issues through an ethics lens. Students will also learn about environmental justice and analyze local and global cases of environmental injustices. At the completion of the course students will have a much richer understanding of the complexity of sustainability and will have increased their competencies in critical thinking, writing, public speaking, information literacy, quantitative literacy, and library research.



Ben Perkins

Dr. Perkins’ research focus is in hydrogeology and aqueous & sedimentary geochemistry. His students and he use a variety of techniques including field studies, laboratory experiments and analyses, and groundwater and geochemical modeling to explore groundwater - surface water interactions, delineate groundwater flow systems and the geochemical evolution of groundwaters, and to investigate both how anthropogenic and climatic changes impact aquifer systems and how groundwater interacts with and impacts the surface environment.

There is growing evidence that human activity is significantly transforming the natural systems that sustain us. Although we may often think of the natural world as something separate from our largely urban lives, our most basic needs such as nutritious food to eat, clean air to breath, and clean water to drink depend on the health of the natural systems of which we are a part. The focus of this course will be on exploring the possibility of maintaining a sustainable relationship between human communities and the natural world. To investigate this question, we will explore the interconnectedness of global systems (including physical, ecological, cultural, and economic).

WHAT ARE GREAT BOOKS?

Description

This theme focuses on some of the great literary works, watershed scientific discoveries, and seminal insights and creative acts that characterized the last two millennia of human thought and culture. To do so we will cross disciplines at every stage, working to understand how history, literature, art, philosophy, math, and science are not discrete disciplines but have always influenced and contributed profoundly to one another.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	167A	001	WHAT ARE GREAT BOOKS	Bettridge	MW 1330-1510
UNST	167A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bettridge	W 1530-1620
UNST	167A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bettridge	W 1530-1620
UNST	167A	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bettridge	W 1630-1720
UNST	167A	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Bettridge	W 1730-1820

Faculty



Joel Bettridge

Joel Bettridge earned his BA from Emory University in 1997 and his Ph.D. from SUNY Buffalo in 2002. He joined the faculty at PSU in 2007 and teaches in University Studies and the Department of English. His teaching and research interests include American poetry, Modernism, the Bible as literature, and experimental writing. He is the author of multiple books of poetry and criticism, including *The Public Life of Chemistry* and *Avant-Garde Pieties: Aesthetics, Race, and the Renewal of Innovative Poetics*.

What Are Great Books?: This theme focuses on some of the great literary works, watershed scientific discoveries, and seminal insights and creative acts that characterize human thought and culture. Some works and writers we will read include indigenous creation myths from around the world, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, as well the poems of the thirteenth century Sufi mystic Rumi and the writings of the twelfth century Confucian philosopher Chu His. As we read, we will consider how to engage them on their own terms and what it means to read them from our own time and place.

THE WORK OF ART

Description

Approaching art from a variety of disciplines, this course examines how the work of art shapes, reflects, disguises, and complicates our personal and cultural identities. We explore the various roles that art plays in our imaginary, political, and social lives.

Course Listings

Subject	Course	Sec	Title	Instructor	Meeting Times
UNST	131A	001	WORK OF ART	Locker	WEB
UNST	131A	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Locker	WEB
UNST	131B	001	WORK OF ART	Fisher	MW 0900-1050
UNST	131B	002	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fisher	W 1100-1150
UNST	131B	003	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fisher	W 1200-1250
UNST	131B	004	MENTORED INQUIRY	Fisher	W 1300-1350

Faculty



Thomas Fisher

Dr. Fisher's interests include poetry/poetics, critical theory and aesthetics and has been at PSU since 2002. His section of "The Work of Art" examines how art shapes, disguises, enables and complicates our personal, social and cultural identities. By engaging philosophical, political, literary, scientific, visual and historical texts, we will explore how art reflects, constructs and contests our understandings of imaginary, political and social landscapes. Throughout the year, we will think "the work of art," both what it is and what it does.



Jesse Locker

Throughout time, humans have created works of art, seeking to record, manipulate, and transform the world around them for the sake of expression or aesthetic enjoyment. Through the study of these works, we can understand the range of human experience. This year-long course uses the theme of "The Work of Art" as a means of exploring a broad range of social, political, and philosophical issues. Jesse Locker specializes in Italian art of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, particularly seventeenth-century painter Artemisia Gentileschi. He is author of [Artemisia Gentileschi: The Language of Painting](#) (Yale University Press), winner of the Helen & Howard R. Marraro Prize for Italian Studies, editor of [Rethinking Art in the Late Renaissance: After Trent](#) (Routledge), and, most recently, author of articles in [Artibus et Historiae](#) and [Gastronomica](#).