

TOWSON SEMINAR TOPICS

The following TSEM topics have been approved for instruction and may be offered based on faculty interest and availability. Not all topics are offered every semester or academic year.

Towson Seminar, TSEM 102 - Topics (3 units)

Accounting Counts: From Pacioli to the SEC

Department of Accounting

Introduces students to the history of accounting as a profession and its components from the days of Pacioli to present, including broader societal issues and contemporary topics such as ethics, federal tax policy, and Sarbanes Oxley.

African American Contributions to the Arts: 20th Century

Department of Dance

Unpack the enormous, and often unsung, contributions by African Americans to various artistic disciplines in the 20th century.

Alternative Modernities: Indian Mediascapes

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

Focus on Indian modernity through an emphasis on India's varied mediascapes. Students will be introduced to a variety of themes and ideologies in Indian cinemas and popular visual culture. Through a series of readings, screenings, and lectures, students will explore topics such as nationalism, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and globalization in South Asia and in the South Asian diaspora as depicted within Indian films and visual media. We will go beyond Bollywood by looking at documentary and art-house (independent) films, as well as films produced in regional languages that have a strong impact on popular culture and contribute to the legacy of cinema in India. We will also explore the films of diasporic filmmakers to gain a perspective on the experiences of South Asians living outside of the nation and their connection to their homeland through the medium of film.

Alternative Modernities: Korean Dreams

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

Focus on Korea—both as a unified peninsula and in its present form as a nation divided into North and South. Developing across 5000 years of oftentimes tumultuous history—particularly during the 20th century—Korea is a highly globalized nation that is simultaneously, recognizably Korean, i.e., both global and local. Examining Korea in historical and contemporary contexts forces us to develop notions of modernity and globalization that are less rooted in Western experiences, less tied to single lines of "development." In this class, we will examine Korean life not as a singular set of characteristics, experiences, essences, but as a complex engagement with modernity and globalization, one rife with accommodation, resistance, ethnogenesis and emergence.

America in the 1960s: Decade of Conflict and Change

Department of History

An introduction to the cultural, political, social conflicts of the 1960s in America, with emphasis on development of research and critical thinking skills. Through their study of major figures, movements and events of this period, as well as through guided study of research methodology, students will become acquainted with historical ways of thinking and writing.

America's War on Drugs

Department of History

Exploration of American drug policies. Emphasis on treatment and prevention options, debates regarding decriminalization and legalization, and the domestic and international drug trade. Attention to popular perceptions of addicts, the flaws in those perceptions, and how perceptions shape policies. The historical context of current drug policy.

American Murals

Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education

Murals are paintings placed on culturally meaningful walls. "American Murals" will examine the creation and use of murals across many American ethnic and racial groups from pre-Colonial Native Americans, through the Colonial period, to the 21st Century including the 1930s Mexican Mural Movement, Works Progress Administration and mid-20th-century Civil Rights Movements.

Anarchism

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Examines the history and philosophy of anarchist practice and theory. It is often claimed that humans need authority in order to permit a harmonious society; anarchism (meaning "without rule") challenges this in various ways, at political, interpersonal, and individual levels. Examines the relationship between the individual and authority.

The Arab Uprisings in Historical Perspective

Department of History

Explores the Arab Uprisings, or the "Arab Spring," that erupted across the Arab world, including Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Syria, in early 2011. Also examines the historical background of these states since World War II period to provide context for understanding why citizens stood in the public squares and rebelled against entrenched dictators some receiving political and financial support from the United States. Course is informed by the disciplines of history, Middle East studies, and media studies.

Artistic Exchange between Europe and East Asia

Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education

Explores artistic exchanges between Europe and East Asia from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries with a goal to introduce cross-cultural perspectives. It examines how aesthetic ideas from Europe and East Asia left different impressions on each other and what they meant to each culture. Cross-cultural aesthetics from both European and East Asian perspectives are introduced to provide theoretical foundation to engage selected works of art. This seminar is also designed to teach students how to analyze and write about art critically in terms of its formal elements, subject matter, historical and cultural contexts.

Baseball: Beyond the Game

Department of Economics

An interdisciplinary exploration of the game of baseball and its impact on American culture. Will study the history and development of the game, key figures in the game, the growth of the game, the effects of integrating the game, the cultural impact of the game, the sense of community the game gives, the ethical debates of performance enhancing drugs, labor relationships between owners and players, and the future of the game.

Bioethics

Department of Biological Sciences

Addresses several of the ethical and legal issues associated with current trends in molecular biological, biochemical and bioinformatics research. Expectations include active participation in class discussion.

Biology in the Age of Misinformation

Department of Biological Sciences

Even though we live in the information age, we are surrounded by misinformation and disinformation. Students will explore the nature of

science through the lens of biology. Students will investigate how the portrayal of science in the popular media by politicians, famous people, social media, or the news, affects the public's perception of scientific fact and the scientific process. Students will read case studies and participate in activities to determine what is good science, bad science, and pseudoscience.

Body Image Through History

Department of Dance

A survey of attitudes toward the human body in different fields, eras, and cultures.

Brand Me 2.0

Department of Marketing

Provides an integrated view of "personal branding" within the context of business organizations and prepares students to critically analyze the gaps between their personal brand and their goals, and develop effective solutions. Includes study of the structure and organization of businesses at it relates to hiring and branding, understanding of what makes a personal brand, common business concepts such as positioning, branding, integrated communication; and the interrelationships among business goals and a personal brand.

"By Any Means Necessary": African-American Literature and Social Activism in the 20th Century United States

Department of English

Examines the ways in which authors, writers, and activists have conceptualized the meaning of race throughout the 20th century. Beginning with the work of Anna Julia Cooper and W.E.B. Du Bois, we will chart the evolution of the idea of race and explore the ways in which race—and particularly Black identity—have shaped the very definition of America(n)/the United States and its relationship to its own citizenry. Reading various genres of literature (creative non-fiction, novels, journalistic essays), we will document the converging and diverging social, political and aesthetic movements that helped define the 20th century.

The Cabinet of Wonders: Nature and Art before the Age of Science

Department of Art + Design, Art History, Art Education

Explores the Cabinet of Wonders as an important cultural phenomenon during the Early Modern Period (1500-1700). The major theme in these collections is the rivalry between nature and art in objects that excite wonder and astonishment. Focusing on exploration and discovery, this course introduces students to the academic expectations for college-level work and to the intellectual, communication, and collaborative skills needed for academic success. The double focus on nature and art introduces multiple perspectives and draws from many different disciplines, including natural history, the history of science, art history, aesthetics, philosophy, anthropology, and eco-criticism as an important branch of environmentalism.

Caregiving Across the Lifespan

Department of Psychology

Provides a fundamental understanding of the caregiver experience over the lifespan from early childhood through late adulthood. Students will be exposed to the core concepts of lifespan developmental psychology, and its application to understanding the caregiver experience. Specifically, this course will investigate the important developmental milestones that occur at each point in the lifespan and how these milestones may help or hinder the caregiver experience as we age. These developmental milestones include biological, psychological, and social milestones.

Can We Talk? Communication, Gender, and the Family

Department of Family Studies & Community Development

Ways that verbal and nonverbal communication styles have an effect on the roles and status of women and men within the family and relationships. Emphasis on issues relating to power, language, sexism, authority, and interpersonal issues and how communication style impacts the ways we relate to one another around these and other issues. The media's impact, which includes social networking, cell phone and computer usage, and TV and movies, will also be highlighted. Observational and experiential exercises will be highlighted.

China Today: Challenges and Opportunities

Department of History

China is now the second largest economy in the world, a growing military power, and an increasingly influential model for other countries. Students will discuss China's strengths and weaknesses in order to develop a balanced view of the challenge posed to the United States and the nations of East Asia. Students will examine internal problems that threaten to destabilize China, as well as external pressures to limit Beijing's international influence.

Consumption and Culture

Cultural Studies

Examines the relationship between culture and food consumption habits in various ways: exploring how American society influences food consumption and meal patterns; investigating the production, distribution and consumption of food products; noting food discrepancies between socioeconomic classes, race and gender; analyzing dietary consequences of the intersection of modern living and the standard American diet; considering how food choices and options are interconnected on the global level.

Cultural Identity Through Music: Latino Music

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Considers expressions of cultural identity through Latino music. Cultural resistance, hybridity, authenticity, and globalization are themes that will be discussed and that will serve as the point of departure for the analysis of particular musical genres, including flamenco, corrido (narrative ballad), salsa, reggaetón, and Brazilian Popular Music (MPB). The characteristics, historical roots, and commercialization of each genre will be examined as well as the genre's place in both official and alternative views of nationhood.

Current Issues in Education: Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns

Department of Educational Technology & Literacy

Explores current issues in education related to how students learn and the need for a customized learning approach to maximize each student's ability to learn. Technology's role, in the process of individualizing learning for students will be explored. Students will examine reasons why technology has not been the panacea to improve academic achievement it was first touted to be by applying the theory of disruptive innovation to technology implementation in schools. Students will be introduced to effective strategies for gathering, evaluating and communicating information. Students will use critical thinking, team collaboration and problem solving to examine the most current scholarship surrounding their topics.

Current Issues in Education: Excitement and Challenge of Extreme Teaching

Department of Educational Technology & Literacy

Explores teaching - a most exciting and challenging profession - through inspiring examples of excellent teaching practices in order to incorporate these best practices into every challenging teaching

situation. Introduction to effective strategies for gathering, evaluating and communicating information. Students will use critical thinking, team collaboration and problem solving to examine the most current scholarship surrounding these topics.

Current Issues in Education: Living and Learning in a Digital Society

Department of Educational Technology & Literacy

Current issues in education related to living and learning in a digital society. This course emphasizes that critical, self-reflective understanding of the contexts of our technology use is central to becoming digital practitioners and effective teachers in a participatory culture. Students will be introduced to effective strategies for gathering, evaluating and communicating information.

Death and Dying

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Philosophical examination of death. Topics include: (dis)value of death for the person who dies, abortion, euthanasia, and suicide. Will consider both contemporary and classical arguments addressing these issues.

Diversity Dialogues for Social Justice

Department of English

Students will learn to deliberate and problem-solve with others over complex and difficult social and political issues that involve privilege, inequity, and oppression. Alongside sustained academic research and writing, this work involves building relationships across cultural identities and differences in order to promote mutual understanding, to support democratic practices, and to further social justice. The second half of the semester students engage across identities in Intergroup Dialogue as a mode to transform the self and become an engaged and culturally competent citizen.

Down to The Wire: Examining Baltimore's Political Economy Through Film

Department of Women's & Gender Studies

Examines significant political, economic, and cultural issues facing Baltimore City through the artistic work of David Simon. Topics include: race, class, gender, sexuality and representation; class inequality and post-industrial economies; addiction, policing, and the "war on drugs"; and urban crisis and neoliberal reform.

Earth's Changing Climate – Past, Present, and Future

Department of Geography & Environmental Planning

Understand the critical and often contentious issue of climate change, and to introduce students to scholarship. Scientific evidence and analysis, and an interdisciplinary perspective are needed to deal with the pressing issue of global climate change. This course will provide students with the critical thinking and analytical skills needed to weigh the evidence supporting or refuting claims of climate change or its consequences and to help students develop the research and writing skills required of college graduates.

Energy, Society, and Politics

Department of Political Science

A multidisciplinary examination of the role of energy in shaping societies, influencing policy choices, and affecting the global distribution of power.

The Ethics of Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Department of Kinesiology

Concepts of ethics, ethical theory, and contemporary ethical issues as they pertain to student life. Investigation of the progression of personal ethics to the development of professional ethics.

Exercise and the Brain

Department of Psychology

Review current research on the effects of exercise on the brain as it relates to psychological function. Students will be introduced to the fields of neuroscience and psychology while investigating the role of exercise in attention, memory, mood, stress, psychological disorders, and aging.

Exploring Visual Representations of Mathematics

Department of Mathematics

An introductory seminar class in mathematics, focusing on the use of visual representations of mathematics, including building blocks of written number systems, tessellations and the golden ratio in art, graphical representations, Venn diagrams, and contingency tables. Special emphasis will be given to multiple representations of a mathematical problem or concept.

Facing the Inquisitor: Religious Persecution in Pre-modern Times

Department of History

Based on translated documents from the archives of the Inquisition. The goal is to understand how religious and cultural differences were defined and repressed in pre-modern societies (13th to 18th centuries). Students will work throughout the semester in pairs by taking the perspective of either one specific inquisitor or one of his victims after they reconstruct, directly from the sources, each individual's actions and reasons. Each team of two students will thus research one inquisitorial trial, and each individual student will present conclusions in a research paper and two aural reports to the class. Topics to be discussed: the origins of the medieval inquisitions in contrast with their later developments in Spain, Portugal and Italy; the debates surrounding the Inquisition since its origins and how its activities were perceived over time; the world view of the inquisitor and that of the heretic in European and non-European colonial pre-modern societies; ideas of collective security, religious enforcement and social discipline in pre-modern societies. Will draw upon tools and research methods from disciplines such as history, anthropology, religious studies, and art history.

Family Risk and Resilience

Department of Family Studies & Community Development

Focuses on the ways in which families experience risk. Places emphasis on the diversity of risk both within the family unit as well as how risk is perceived by social forces outside the family. Introduces multiple perspectives on risk and resiliency using a multidisciplinary approach. Special attention will be paid to how individual differences have the potential to increase risk for individuals, families and communities.

Food for Thought: Examining the Ethics of Eating

Department of Family Studies & Community Development

Focuses on the nutritional, environmental, and ethical implications of food choices. Examines recent changes in nutrition and how the transition to factory farming has altered the scope of human eating behavior. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between humans and animals and how we make decisions about what we eat or do not eat.

Food Politics: Agriculture, Industry, Policy and Health

Department of Health Sciences

Explores various aspects of food politics, including issues surrounding how and where food is grown, sustainability, genetically modified food, the food industry, the obesity epidemic, food insecurity, food policy and national dietary guidelines.

Getting Down to Business

Department of Marketing

Provides an integrated view of business organizations and prepares students to critically analyze business problems and develop effective solutions. Includes study of the structure and organization of businesses, common business processes, and the interrelationships among business functions.

Green Eating on a Blue Planet

Department of Geography & Environmental Planning

An examination of food: what we eat, where we eat, how we eat, and what are the industrial, economic, technological, social and political factors that shape the production of food, and what these mean for the planet. An introduction to student research and writing at the university level. Through readings, discussions, and assignments students will learn about food production and distribution in order to feed nearly seven billion people and about the nature of scholarship.

The Harlem Renaissance: A Modernist Collection of Literature, Art, Music, Film and Dance

Department of English

An inter-disciplinary exploration of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary, artistic, cultural, and intellectual movement of the early 20th century.

The Hero-Villain in Renaissance Drama

Department of English

Investigates the development of destructive, monstrous, and evil protagonists in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama.

How We Became Posthuman: An Introduction to the Concepts and Consequences of Cybernetics

Department of English

Introduction to cybernetics, as well as disciplinary concepts and methods in history of science, cultural studies, and technology studies. Evaluates the portrayal of cybernetic concepts and the ways in which literary works are able to address "humanistic" questions and issues raised by cybernetics.

Human Nature: An Evolutionary Perspective

Department of Psychology

Theory and research regarding the roles of evolutionary and social factors in shaping human behavior and cognition. Integrating core concepts of evolutionary biology and social psychology. Topics include the nature-nurture debate, aggression and violence, sex and child rearing, and morality.

Immigrant Women's Experiences

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

Topics include Immigrant women's experiences, primarily in the United States; how immigrant women's geographic and demographic origins shape their experiences; how America shapes and changes immigrant women; how immigrant women help transform U.S. communities and the nation.

Information Visualization: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Communicating Information

Department of Computer & Information Sciences

As the power and pervasiveness of computers increase, we are able to capture growing amounts of data about numerous aspects of our daily lives. Such data often remains useless until we are able to give it meaning by interpreting it correctly and transmitting its essence to others through simple yet effective visualizations. Survey multiple approaches to working with information, from the technical perspective of collecting and managing data to social and psychological aspects involved with

the design of graphics and the different visualizations unique to various domains.

Innovation Through the Ages

Department of Economics

An integrated / multi-disciplinary perspective of institutional structure, innovation, and the process of economic change intended to provide insight into basic principles of economic reasoning applied on a comprehensive span of human history. Incorporates theories and examples from a number of social sciences and will demonstrate the advantages of liberal arts based education.

Islam and the West

Department of Geography & Environmental Planning

Exploration of differing perspectives on the relationship between the modern Muslim world and the West.

Journey and Quest in World Literature

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

The theme of the journey as the most enduring and complex in world literature. The epistemological value of the journey as exploration of self and others' identities, the notions of quest and epic hero, the issue of ancient and modern migrations as a crossing of geographical and cultural borders.

Journey of Self-Discovery

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

The theme of the journey as the most enduring and complex in the literature of Western civilization. The epistemological value of the journey as exploration of self and others' identities, the notions of quest and epic hero, the issue of ancient and modern migrations as a crossing of geographical and cultural borders.

The Legacy of Colonialism in the Arts

Department of Dance

Historical survey of and artistic representations of the conditions and repercussions of colonialism through readings, videos, and movement experiences.

Let's Go to the Mall: The Culture and History of Shopping in America

Department of History

Examination of the history and culture of shopping in America from 1600 to the present, primarily from the perspective of history, but also the disciplines of material culture studies, art history, sociology, anthropology, economics, and marketing.

The Limits of Reason

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

The role of reason throughout the history of Western philosophy, beginning with the Platonic formalism of the ancient era, continuing into the Renaissance and Age of Enlightenment with Rene Descartes' rationalism, David Hume's empiricism, and Immanuel Kant's transcendentalism, and culminating in the contemporary perspectives of Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre, Emmanuel Levinas, and Alphonso Lingis on the limits of reason.

Literacy for Life

Department of Educational Technology & Literacy

Students will examine their own literacy, the literacy interactions of career paths they are interested in, and the role literacy plays in the world in which we live. Reading critically, writing effectively to different audiences, and sharing verbally supported views to both real and virtual audiences will be examined.

Literary Experiences and Philosophical Concepts*Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies*

Literature is a discipline that presents experiences and conceptualizations to its readers. Philosophy is a discipline that questions, analyzes and reflects in order to discover the meaning of things. Use the power of literature to create a common reference fund to use for our philosophical reflections. These reflections will consider the thoughts of various philosophers as pathways for coming to our own insights and developing ways to articulate them. Among the themes to be considered are the meanings of: death, joy, freedom, fate, obsession, social relations, rationality, humanity, work, love, alienation, the absurd, justice, and pleasure. Literature is a discipline that presents experiences and conceptualizations to its readers. Philosophy is a discipline that questions, analyzes and reflects in order to discover the meaning of things. Use the power of literature to create a common reference fund to use for our philosophical reflections. These reflections will consider the thoughts of various philosophers as pathways for coming to our own insights and developing ways to articulate them. Among the themes to be considered are the meanings of: death, joy, freedom, fate, obsession, social relations, rationality, humanity, work, love, alienation, the absurd, justice, and pleasure.

Living the Good Life*Department of Psychology*

Examination of several evidence-based factors that are involved in making people feel satisfied and happy in their lives from the point of view of positive psychology. Focus on social relationships, health, lifestyle, wealth, mental states. May include related fields such as philosophy, anthropology, sociology and aesthetics. Designed to introduce Do we really know what will make us happy? The course begins by examining some misconceptions that we may harbor about what makes for a happy and satisfying life. We'll see that many things we think matter for our happiness like wealth, material possessions, or even good grades, don't really matter so much. Throughout the course, we'll explore what new results in psychological science teach us about how to be happy and flourishing. We'll then have a chance to put these scientific findings into practice by building the sorts of habits that will allow us to live a happier and more fulfilling life.

Living a Meaningful Life: Well Being and Occupation*Department of Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science*

Introduces students to skills needed to function successfully at college, in the context of an exploration of the relationship of occupational engagement to well-being. Students will gain an understanding of the concept of occupation, and investigate the influence of various occupations on health, happiness, and well-being.

Love and Sex*Department of Women's & Gender Studies*

Think about and assess attitudes and beliefs about love, sex, and sexuality. Much of our attitudes and beliefs structure how we create meaningful intimate relationships. Examine categories of love and sex and how they are framed in questions of identity, responsibility and freedom. The first part of the course will cover broader ideas and philosophies of love and sex. The second part of the course will consider the moral and political implications associated with specific issues of pregnancy and childbirth, pornography and sex work, intersex and transgendered identities, rape and violence against women.

Ludwig van Beethoven: The Hero and the Heroic Style*Department of Music*

Beethoven as a heroic figure who championed personal and political freedom and helped usher in the Romantic tradition in music.

The Machine that Changed the World: Automobility in a Time of Scarcity*Department of Political Science*

A multidisciplinary examination of how the automobile has changed world cultures with an emphasis on economic, environmental, social and political factors.

Making Schools Work: It Takes a Village*Department of Special Education*

This first-year seminar course will explore the various ways that personnel and families work together to create a meaningful experience for students in P-12 schools. Course requirements include a research paper, annotated bibliography and group presentation.

Manage your Money and Beyond*Department of Finance*

The financial environment is continuously changing. This seminar provides you with an opportunity to learn how these changes affect your own life, the economy and other aspects of the society— career, family, health- through an active learning process. You are exposed to many difficult financial challenges through this course and will be expected to explore and discover multiple ways to resolve the dilemmas, and come up with an informed and educated decision. You are expected to use various resources to do research on multiple perspectives so as to identify the optimal solution for issues relating to financial and economic situations.

Maryland Plantations: Then and Now*Interdisciplinary Programs*

Focuses on the plantations of Maryland and the larger Chesapeake from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. It investigates complexes of planters' houses and slave quarters to uncover the material reality of plantation life, for both men and women in the elite planter class as well as those who were enslaved. Its primary approach is historical, but it also employs perspectives and approaches drawn from the disciplines of material culture, art history, architectural history, gender studies, anthropology, and museum studies. A primary component of the course will be analysis of museums' interpretation of plantations to the general public. A trip to Hampton Plantation will allow students to consider museums' decisions about what to preserve and how to interpret the lives of masters, mistresses, and slaves. Students will be expected to read critically, participate in class discussions of readings, films, and historic sites, and be willing to work interactively and collaboratively. Topics covered include slavery, southern architecture, women's history, rising levels of consumption, the making of historical memory, and public history.

Mass Media and Medicine*Department of Health Sciences*

Through reflective writing, roundtable discussions, skills workshops, a research paper, and a group presentation, students will be introduced to the rigors of academic scholarship, explore collaborative learning, and engage in critically evaluating the content and impact of mediated messages on the practice and consumption of health care across cultures.

Media Literacy: The Active Media Consumer*Department of Mass Communication*

Seminar emphasizing active learning, with a focus on examining and analyzing the mass media as tools of education, socialization, and indoctrination that influence our understanding of the world.

Middle East History Through Film and Literature

Department of History

Examines the history of the region through the reading of literature and the viewing of films produced in or about the region. Topics include the rise of Islam, the Golden Age of Islam, the Crusades, the Ottoman Empire, European colonialism in the region, indigenous resistance and rise of nationalism, the creation of the state of Israel, and the Iranian Revolution.

Mozart: the Man, the Myth, and the Music*Department of Music*

Consideration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the greatest prodigy of western music and his growth as a maturing genius who helped to establish the Viennese classical style during his brief career. Seeks to separate the myths that have developed about this remarkable figure from the actual historical facts and place him in context of his peers and his role in the style of his time.

Nature in Literature*Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures*

Studies the representation of nature and its relationship to contemporary issues including ecology, gender, cultural and identity constructions, art, and education. Readings include an extensive novel as well as Eco-critical theory.

Notable Music-Makers*Department of Music*

Immersive study of composers / performers / improvisers, their creative output, their historical and cultural context, and their continuing relevance in today's music cultures.

The Object is the Object*Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies*

Focuses on the study of material culture and religion through the examination of objects, spaces, bodies, senses, foods, and related items. Study will include primary and secondary readings and films about these objects, their histories, and uses, as well as direct interaction and experience with some of them in the classroom, through digital means, and/or through site visits. Introductory studies of material culture and religion will be introduced.

Organizational Culture*Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice*

Characteristics, functions, and dysfunctions of organizational culture; relationship between organizations' cultures and their members' identities; organizational cultures in national and global contexts.

Paris 1900-1930: Music, Dance, and the Visual Arts*Department of Music*

Paris 1900-1930: Crucible for the visual and performing arts. An introduction to the city, its major artistic movements and figures, Diaghilev's Ballets russes and Borlin's Ballets suédois.

Paris: Past in the Present*Department of History*

Past and present Paris through virtual tours of its twenty neighborhoods. Analysis of diverse information sources, including metro maps, online museum collections, neighborhood websites, historic films, buildings, and monuments. Interaction of Parisians with the changing cityscape and each other.

Philosophical Perspectives on the Self*Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies*

A philosophical examination of the nature of the human self, with emphasis on three fundamental and interrelated issues: the identity of a

person over their lifetime; the nature of free will and autonomy; the nature of human consciousness.

Philosophy and the Sea*Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies*

Exploration of the relationship between the human self and nature in the context of philosophical discussions utilizing metaphorical concepts of the sea. We will read "Sea Stories" from a variety of authors spanning multiple disciplines in literature, women's studies, race and ethnic studies, environmental ethics, history, and critical maritime studies to supplement our understanding of the philosophical implications the sea has historically represented in human imagination.

Physics and Metaphysics*Department of Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences*

Seminar format emphasizing active learning, with content drawn from primarily from physics and astrophysics, along with current scientific controversies. Introduces multiple perspectives (e.g. Aristotelian vs. Newtonian). Does not count toward a major in physics or astrophysics.

Play: It's Not Just Fun and Games*Department of Kinesiology*

Examination of the theory of play. A review of the historical sources, values, and interests that influenced the development of various forms of play.

Politics and Literature*Department of Political Science*

A multidisciplinary examination of how literature and politics influence each other in local, national, and global politics. The course will draw on materials from political science, history, and both fiction and non-fiction literature.

Popular Culture and Politics: Comedy, Entertainment, Celebrity, and Democracy*Department of Mass Communication*

Writing-intensive seminar focusing on popular politics and the increasing role of entertainment, celebrity, and humor in the public sphere. Subtopics to include: celebrity politics, political comedy, television entertainment, and new media.

Population Issues in the 21st Century*Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice*

As the 21st century dawned, the world's population topped an unprecedented 6 billion. Current population projections estimate that we will reach 9 billion by 2050. Explore recent demographic change and a range of social issues related to population dynamics and distribution, including the demographic divide between wealthy and poor countries, population aging, national security, environmental degradation and concerns over resources, emerging and resurging diseases, and labor force concerns.

Psychology and Environmental Sustainability*Department of Psychology*

Investigation into the ways in which the scientific discipline of psychology can contribute to our understanding of environmental sustainability. Includes how human psychological processes influence behaviors that help or hurt the environment, how the natural environment and environmental problems affect psychological processes, and how psychology can help encourage environmental sustainability.

Psychology of Religion*Department of Psychology*

Interdisciplinary seminar designed to explore the intersections of psychology and religion for a variety of important social issues such as social change, meaning of life, forgiveness, happiness, conformity and obedience.

Psychology of Scientific Thinking

Department of Psychology

The Scientific Method and the role it plays in society with emphasis on the psychological processes involved in decision making. Standards of evidence and critical thinking skills necessary to differentiate scientific from pseudoscientific claims regarding topics such as ESP, repressed memory, UFOs, etc.

Race and Gender in American Sports

Interdisciplinary Programs

The importance of sports in United States history in regard to racial identity, gender norms, and American ideals. Historical approach, with analysis from Women and Gender Studies, American Studies, Sociology, and Media Studies.

Reading the Sacred

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Investigation of the idea of the sacred as expressed in sacred texts. Exploration of foundational religious texts (such as the Hebrew Bible and New Testament) alongside foundational secular texts (such as the U.S. Constitution), and their roles in various communities. Emphasis placed on reading strategies and the challenges of interpretation.

Reality

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

How is it possible to know the ultimate nature of reality? Is there a difference between reality and appearance, or are appearances all that is 'real'? What is the relation between reality and the mind, between reality and language? Do the mind and/or language 'constitute' reality in some way? Is the very idea of reality even coherent? This course will trace a history of philosophy as a history of attempts to think about this most slippery of concepts.

Reasoning, Problem Solving and Decision making

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Examines various approaches and techniques for solving problems with a view to making productive decisions. Students will essay understanding problems in social and individual contexts, using technology and effectively deploying their intuitive powers. They will consider the role in problem solving of inventiveness, innovation, experimentation, and troubleshooting. To better decide, they will examine the elements of choice, judgment, valuing, and planning.

Re-Fighting the Civil War: History, Memory, and the Continuing Struggle over America's Past

Department of History

Examination of the ways in which Americans have remembered the Civil War, their reasons for doing so, and the uses that memory has served. Historians' interpretation of the war will be considered, but particular emphasis will be on the popular memory of the war, especially relating to issues of race and slavery.

Religion and Politics in America

Department of Political Science

An examination of how religion and politics influence each other in the United States, with attention given to civil religion, the First Amendment, and religious activism, among other issues. Draws on materials from political science, history, and religious studies.

Rock and Rap in Latin America

Department of Music

Examines the ways in which U.S. popular musical styles such as rock, punk, heavy metal, and rap (hip-hop culture) have served as catalysts for social and cultural changes in Latin America.

Science Fiction and Society

Department of English

Science fiction and speculative fiction in relation to social, political, cultural, and technological issues. Topics vary but may include: environment/ecology, computers/technology, race, gender, alienness, or dystopia/apocalypse.

Science of Healthy Habits

Department of Kinesiology

Students will explore, analyze, and critique the science behind public health recommendations from the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the World Health Organization. This includes developing an understanding of culturally diverse perspectives on lifestyle changes that promote wellbeing. Student will learn to apply critical thinking and scientific rational to their personal wellness choices and the wellness of the Towson community.

Science, Technology, and Global Trends

Department of Political Science

An introductory, multidisciplinary examination of the influence of science and technology (S&T) on modern political, economic, and social life, and an analysis of the likely effects of current S&T trends on the future.

The Senses

Department of English

This course asks students to think critically about the sense experiences – their cultural significance, political consequences, and representations in written texts and visual media. Students will observe how representations of sense experiences shift through stylistic choices in the descriptive writing of marketers, artists, filmmakers, and social critics.

Shattered: The Devastating Influence of Trauma

Department of Psychology

Provides an overview of the impact of trauma at the individual and global level including its potentially negative influence on psychological and physical health, social relationships, and academic and occupational functioning.

Sleep – Who Needs It and Why?

Department of Health Sciences

Effects of sleep and sleep deprivation on optimal functioning. Exploration of sleep, sleep disorders, long term effects of sleep deprivation and treatment options.

Social Justice and the City

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

An exploration of the interdisciplinary field of social justice as it relates to cities. Review of the historical roots of contemporary inequality; development of the analytical skills necessary for assessing contemporary inequality and injustice issues in cities.

Social Media's Appeal: An Inter-actionist and Cross Disciplinary Examination

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

Cultural patterns and meanings of social media use; techniques of self-representation on social media; benefits or liabilities potentially defining

social media use: virtual privilege, competing uses, and social capital in online communications; social harm and inequality on-line.

Stem Cell Research: Evidence versus Hype

Department of Health Sciences

An investigation of the controversy involving stem cell research. Students will explore the scientific, religious, ethical, and political issues impacting decision-making regarding stem cell research.

Technology Across Generations and in the Classroom

Department of Special Education

In this seminar-style course, we will explore current issues with a focus on how understanding technology use across generations can lead to improved learning and better interactions. Course themes include technology use among P-12 students and in prior generations; understanding differences in technology familiarity and use; communication and collaboration; technology's relationship to well-being and mental health; and learners and learning in a digital age. Through investigation of these course themes, students will be introduced to effective strategies for gathering, evaluating, and communicating information.

There and Back Again: A Supply Chain Tale

Department of Business Analytics & Technology Management

Explores contemporary supply chains through in-class presentations, guest speakers, site visits, individual research, and group projects/presentations. The concept of a supply chain - the series of organizations which process and transform inputs from raw materials up to the end customer - is central to our economic processes. Each supply chain is unique in the number of organizations involved, the types of processes used, the transportation methods applied, the products and services produced, and the type of customer served.

To Hell and Back: Images of the Underworld in Pre-Modern Societies

Department of History

A survey of literary and historical documents from several pre-modern civilizations in order to investigate the manners in which the ancients conceptualized the idea of the Underworld.

Towson University Students in the Upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s

Department of History

Investigates the history of students at Towson University in the 1960s and 1970s. These decades were years of rapid transformation in American politics and culture as the rights revolution, the Vietnam War, the rise of counter culture, and student activism reshaped society. At the forefront of driving these movements were students. Away from home for the first time, exposed to new ideas, and surrounded by new friends students pushed against cultural and political boundaries and helped reshape the United States. Working closely with the materials in the Towson University Archives students will endeavor to understand this turbulent period through the eyes of Towson students who went before them. Students will be expected to read critically, participate in class discussions of readings, movies, and music videos, and be willing to work interactively and collaboratively.

Towson University Students in the Upheaval of the 20th Century

Department of History

Investigates the history of students at Towson University in the 20th century. These decades were years of rapid transformation in American politics and culture as the rights revolution, the Vietnam War, the rise of counter culture, and student activism reshaped society. At the forefront of driving these movements were students. Away from home for the first time, exposed to new ideas, and surrounded by new friends

students pushed against cultural and political boundaries and helped reshape the United States. Working closely with the materials in the Towson University Archives students will endeavor to understand this turbulent period through the eyes of Towson students who went before them. Students will be expected to read critically, participate in class discussions of readings, movies, and music videos, and be willing to work interactively and collaboratively.

Traveling the World through Psychology

Department of Psychology

Designed to provide a fundamental understanding of psychological concepts as they apply to individuals and society. Students will be exposed to the field of psychology, its core concepts, and its application to understanding and changing the world. This course will investigate the differences and similarities that exist between various cultures and how these differences influence the application and progression of psychological concepts in social, developmental, mental health, and work contexts.

The U.S. Constitution

Department of History

Study of the U.S. Constitution and how it has been interpreted and amended over the years. Emphasis on debates at the Constitutional Convention, the role of checks and balances, and the division between state and federal control. Discussions of judicial review and landmark Supreme Court decisions. Analysis of the circumstances in which amendments have been added, their impact, and resistance to them. Exploration of relevant topics of debate, including citizenship, gun rights, abortion rights, affirmative action, and the Electoral College.

Understanding Globalization

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

Introduction to globalization and its interrelated dimensions; the effect of globalization on how people live and think; the creation of a new global world society; world-wide debates and controversies over globalization, its social processes, and its consequences.

Vampires: Blood, Lust and the American Dream

Department of Electronic Media & Film

Emphasizes active learning with content focusing on representations of vampires in popular media from literary origins in the late 19th century through to recent incarnations on screen.

Vampires on Campus: Exploring the Roles of the Vampire in Social Issues of Western Culture

Department of Elementary Education

Examines contemporary society's fascination with vampires, and explores how the lore of the vampire, from Count Dracula to Edward Cullen of the Twilight series, captivates our attention. The vampire, as a liminal figure, embodies or symbolizes a myriad of wide-ranging social themes including capitalism, human sexuality, life/death, illegal immigration, racism, HIV/AIDS, feminist ideologies, good vs. evil, identity, and adolescent angst. This reading- and writing-intensive course includes in-depth critical analysis and research projects.

Virtual Worlds and Society: Impacts of Online Interaction

Department of Computer & Information Sciences

Explores online interaction through virtual worlds and Massively Multi-player Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs). Emphasis will be placed on social, economical, technical and design aspects of these environments, both from a virtual and real life multidisciplinary perspective. Students will engage in activities within several online worlds in order to better recognize related issues and technologies,

and to be able to analyze world specific tasks and goals. A historical perspective on the development of virtual worlds will be discussed as well as an examination of current and future trends, issues and impacts.

War in Literature

Department of English

By studying evocative poems, plays, short stories, and novels, the seminar will examine the seeming paradox of war and literature, of violence and art, by understanding how battle is depicted in literature and how literature is often an aesthetic battleground of conflicting personal and national ideals.

Water - A Multi-Faucet Resource

Department of Geography & Environmental Planning

An interdisciplinary examination of water: its nature, uses, and abuses, and an introduction to student research and writing at the university level. Through readings, discussions, and assignments students will learn about the nature, behavior, and uses of water and about scholarship.

Winning Entrepreneurship

Department of Management

Explores the distinctive knowledge, skills, strategies, and structures, required for winning entrepreneurial ventures, including analyses of business, societal, personal, and interpersonal issues. Students will gain insights of the entrepreneurial process through direct investigation of real-world entrepreneurs.

World Business Environment and the United States

Department of Management

World business environment affecting the United States including economic and financial integration, international competitiveness, energy, labor force adjustment, demographic diversity and immigration, educational differences, cultural and geographic challenges, climate change, national security, ethical adaptation. Research paper required.

The Worlds of a Play

Department of Theatre Arts

Employs dramaturgical analysis and research as the focus of an interdisciplinary learning experience. Every play creates its own unique world that reflects both the society in which it is written and the way that the playwright wishes to respond to that society. Theatre artists employ particular analytical strategies in considering how to bring the world of a play to life in performance. They also conduct extensive research in order to inform their understanding of a play's world and enrich the ways they may share it with an audience. Students in this course will actively engage in this research and analysis in order to make their study of plays the point of departure for learning about a range of topics. Communication skills will be developed through class discussion, writing assignments and a formal group presentation.

Writing Baltimore

Department of English

Baltimore is a city of connections and contradictions. This class looks closely at texts written about the city from diverse perspectives: historical, sociological, environmental, journalistic, and literary. Approaches the city itself as a text to be explored; students will generate their own texts in response to their encounters with the city. Various themes will include the Chesapeake Bay, the sights and sounds of Baltimore, and urban history.

Honors Towson Seminar, TSEM 190 - Topics (3 units)

Water

Honors College

Towson Seminar with multiple sections linked by a connecting theme. Explorations of the social, political, cultural, creative, environmental, and legal constructions of water and its uses. Individual sections emphasize a particular approach. Limited to students in the Honors College.