Discovery Seminars – Spring 2017

Small, engaging, one-credit courses designed exclusively for first-year students.

Social Embeddedness 101: Making your mark on the community
Jennifer Hightower, Vice President and Michele Grab, Executive Director, Memorial Union - Educational Outreach and Student Services

In this seminar, we’ll explore the concepts of civic leadership, community service, and social entrepreneurship through a series of discussions, field trips and service projects. You will have a chance to explore some of the communities surrounding ASU, learn about high impact projects and initiatives at the university that are changing the world, and advance your leadership skills and experiences by developing a creative solution that will serve a local community in need.

W 4:10-5:00 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31217 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Get up Stand up for your Rights: Hip Hop, Reggae and Calypso as Political Expression
David Hinds, Associate Professor - School of Social Transformation

This seminar introduces students to the history and political lyrics of three Black musical forms – Hip Hop from the USA and Reggae and Calypso from the Caribbean. During the course of the semester you will be introduced to the lyrics of singers such as Hip Hop’s Public Enemy and KRS-One; Reggae’s Bob Marley and Calypso’s Mighty Chalkdust. The objective of the seminar is two-fold – introduction to the music and lyrics and introduction to the African American and Caribbean societies.

W 3:05-3:55 p.m., Pablo 105, SLN 31216 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

March Madness: College Basketball and American History
Victoria Jackson, Lecturer - School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

For two weeks in late March each year, Americans at home, work, and school, in airports, subways, and restaurants – nearly everywhere imaginable – tune in to watch the NCAA basketball tournaments. How did these championship tournaments become an entrenched part of the American experience in the spring time? In this seminar we will explore topics including fandom, identity and community; technology and media; and the history of NCAA basketball.

M 2:00-2:50 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31170 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Being American
Sean Kenney, Manager - Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics

Wealth, love, war, government, health, family – Americans have come together and been torn apart as they have wrestled with how best to live together as a country, so that we all may achieve purposeful and prosperous lives. Faculty will lead discussions about the challenges that arise when trying to reconcile the competing values that make up the American experience.

M 3:05-3:55 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31173 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Above Average Health
James Klemaszewski, Instructor - School of Molecular Sciences

Being healthy matters – whether it’s your own health, that of a loved one, or the health of someone under your care. This course will improve your understanding – and ideally practice – of being healthy. Bring your fitness goals for the semester! Talk with health-care professionals, learn about health/wellness opportunities on campus, and how you can impact your community.

R 12:00-12:50 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31168 (C term - January 9 to April 28)
If in one hundred years, someone were to open a box and from its contents understand Arizona State University in the year 2017, what should the box contain? Participants in this seminar will get to decide that question, creating a time capsule of physical and digital objects to be opened only after generations have passed.

W 2:00-2:50 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31172 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Brains, Hormones and Behavior
Miles Orchinik, Associate Professor - School of Life Sciences

Explore the complex world of brain function. How do hormones influence your behavior? Are there significant sex differences between male and female brains? What are the links between stress and mood disorders, like depression and anxiety? How does childhood experience lead to lasting effects on behavior? These are some of the questions that we may discuss during the semester, depending upon the interests of the students.

W 3:05-3:55 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31174 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Drugs, Needles and People: Your future in healthcare
Phillip Scharf, Senior Director - CLAS Pre-Professional Advising Office

Ever thought about going into healthcare? Curious what that really would look like? Come find out first-hand what you need to get there and what there looks like. This class will tour medical school facilities, interact with current medical professionals and give insight to the process of becoming a successful candidate for a career in healthcare.

W 3:05-3:55 p.m., Pablo 105, SLN 31175 (C term - January 9 to April 28)

Arizona Journey Stories
Beth Larson, Senior Lecturer – School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning

Arizona displays so much diversity in terms of natural environment, history, art, human culture, growth, change. In this class, we will explore our Valley through field trips to observe and experience our local environments. Some days we’ll visit the Mural District or Historic Neighborhoods in Phoenix, or visit a community garden in Mesa, or visit a mosque or another place of worship to learn about the diversity of cultures and people in the Valley.

W 2:00-3:50 p.m., Manzanita MPR, SLN 31222 (A term - January 9 to February 28)

Exploring Religion in the Valley of the Sun
Jason Bruner, Assistant Professor – School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies

Centuries of settlement, migration, and violence have profoundly impacted the people and landscape of the “Valley of the Sun.” Today, the greater Phoenix area is home not only to Native American tribes and nations who have lived in the region for centuries, but also to a tremendous variety of ethnic and religious communities, some of whom settled here as refugees. This course explores the religious diversity through visits to religious sites and meetings with local religious leaders in the greater Phoenix area.

R 3:00-4:40 p.m., Pablo 101, SLN 31219 (B term - March 13 to April 28)

Bring It On: Cheerleading & Popular Culture
Michelle McGibbney, Lecturer - School of Social Transformation

Looking at films, TV shows and other popular representations, we will examine the popular construction of the cheerleader and how if it has changed over time and explore how the image of the cheerleader has been depicted in American popular culture throughout the decades.

F 12:00-1:50 p.m., Pablo 105, SLN 31169 (B term - March 13 to April 28)