What is Economics and What are Its Politics?
FFYS 197ECON4  Spire # 59537  Mondays 9:05 – 9:55 AM
Gerald Friedman, Economics  gfriedma@econs.umass.edu
What do Economists do?  How does Economics relate to business?  What does it mean to say that Economics is a Social Science?  Does this make it different than Psychology or History?  We will discuss what Economists do, why they do it, and how they reach the political conclusions and recommendations that they have.  In particular, we will study how Economists formulate policy in several specific areas, including unemployment, education, income distributions, and healthcare. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Introduction to Design Drawing
FFYS 197ART6  Spire # 59522  Mondays 12:20 – 1:10 PM
Stephen Schreiber, Art, Architecture & Art History,  Schreiber@umass.edu
This course will introduce students to fundamental "design thinking" and graphic communication skills in architecture. Students will gain an understanding of drawing as a vital means to see, analyze, and represent essential aspects of the visual environment. Emphasis will be placed on freehand drawing and sketching, using UMass buildings as case studies. Pass/Fail

New England Wildlife and Conservation
FFYS 197BIO1  Spire # 59514  Mondays 1:25 – 2:15 PM
Peter Houlihan, Biology  peteh@bio.umass.edu
This seminar will explore the natural history and conservation biology of New England vertebrate wildlife.  We will learn about the historical ecology of the New England landscape from the end of the last ice age to the present.  This historical perspective will focus on how the natural landscape has changed due to both natural and human caused mechanisms.  In response to changes in the landscape came changes in the populations of wildlife.  In addition to landscape changes, wildlife has also responded to many human caused stressors (over-exploitation, pesticides, habitat degradation).  We will explore how different species responded to these stressors and what steps humans have taken to try and conserve the landscape and the species inhabiting it. Letter grading w/option of P/F

The Pyramids of Egypt: Why and How?
FFYS ANTH6  Spire # 59561  Mondays 1:25 – 2:15 PM
Michael Sugerman, Anthropology  sugerman@anthro.umass.edu
The pyramids of Egypt were not built in a vacuum: they emerged as symbols of power during a thousand years of cultural change that culminated in the creation of a unified state in Egypt. And the pyramids were not built to stand alone: they were parts of religious complexes built to worship the rulers buried within.  In this seminar we will explore early Egypt, and examine the social, political, and economic changes that are symbolized by the pyramids. We will study the technologies used to design and build such monumental structures. We will study some of the methods archaeologists use to investigate ancient cultures, and consider the more recent roles Egyptian pyramids have played in Egypt, Europe, and the Americas. More broadly, we will look at public practices surrounding death and burial, and how they are created by - and reinforce cultural identities in ancient and modern cultures. Letter grading w/option of P/F
Sport & Society: A Historical Perspective
FFYS 197HIST12 Spire # 59558 Mondays 2:30 – 3:20 PM
Joel Wolfe, History  jwolfe@history.umass.edu
This First-Year Seminar will introduce students to debates about the ways professional and amateur sports are both shaped by and shape society. We will read articles on the history of baseball, football, basketball, hockey, soccer, and the Olympics. We will discuss sports as both entertainment and businesses, and analyze how issues in American society are often reflected in sports. We will consider the question of whether or not sports lead the way in social change or lag it. Students are required to complete all the assigned readings (one article per week) and prepare a short reaction paper (one to three paragraphs) for each week. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Cinematic Acts and Social Facts: Public Health Through Film
FFYS 197PUBH2 Spire # 59538 Mondays 2:30 – 3:20 PM
Louis Graham, Public Health  LFGraham@schoolph.umass.edu
Sociocultural norms impact health and stem, in part, from cultural products such as art, literature, and film. This course will consider popular motion pictures as both data and intervention on societal knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about health, identities, and social determinants. Students will be provided with an introductory understanding of public health concepts through critical analysis of popular cinema. A combination of lectures, readings and films will enable students to understand relationships between social norms shaped, in part, by movies and psychosocial, sexual health, and chronic disease outcomes. Students will learn to examine the assumptions made by filmmakers, motion pictures as partial representations of society, audiences, and other key elements. This course uses film to explore and question the cultural landscape of public health in today’s society. Public health is a diverse field that reaches not only into many areas of daily life, but into our cultural imagination as well. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Plastic Bodies in a Plastic World: An Exploration in Environmental Health
FFYS 197PUBH3 Spire # 59559 Mondays 3:35 – 4:25 PM
Laura Vandenberg, Public Health  lvandenberg@schoolph.umass.edu
There are many examples of chemicals that were introduced into our environment and then later identified as hazardous. How do scientists and societies determine whether a chemical is “safe”? How do we balance the use of risky chemicals with our need for modern products? And what happens when there are pressures that prevent chemicals from being labeled toxicants, allowing harmful chemicals to remain on the market? This class will focus on the emerging issue of plastic safety: how plastics are made, how they are used, and why environmental health scientists are worried about them. Discussions will integrate scientific knowledge with public policy to tackle big problems in the field of environmental health sciences. We will use case studies to examine complex issues with the goal of addressing how society balances knowledge with the costs and benefits of modern technologies. Letter grading w/option of P/F
Immigrant an Black: Caribbean Immigrants & Identity Politics in the US
FFYS 197POLI5       Spire # 59534       Mondays 4:40 – 5:30 PM
Carlene Edie, Political Science  ciedie@polsci.umass.edu
Blacks are as ethnically diverse as whites, yet most of the earlier influential scholarship on race/ethnicity defines blacks on skin color alone, treating that population as if it is a homogenous group. The basic premise of this seminar is that a more differentiated account of black politics will make an important contribution to the intellectual discourse on race/ethnicity/immigration in American politics. Drawing on case studies from New York City, the broad questions that the seminar seeks to explore are (a) whether racism compels Caribbean black immigrants to follow the same path to political incorporation as African Americans or (b) can foreign-born blacks replicate the patterns of early European immigrants in keeping with the predictions of the pluralist model of political scientists? Weekly seminars will focus on themes and issues raised in empirical studies on the subject, as well as discussions generated by seminar participants and invited guests (politicians, academics, activists). Letter grading w/option of P/F

Your Brain on Drugs
FFYS 197NRSG       Spire # 59555       Mondays 4:40 – 5:30 PM
Donna Zucker, Nursing,  donna@acad.umass.edu
This seminar will explore the lived experience of substance abuse and reflections on rehabilitation. Additional sources of information will come from media accounts of a famous author/substance abuser and scientific reports of the neurophysiologic basis of addiction. Understandings of the physical and emotional aspects of addiction including socially acceptable and unacceptable addictions will be explored. Letter grading with option of P/F

Internet Business Applications: Intro to Digital Business Models
FFYS 197SCH2       Spire # 59557       Mondays 4:40 – 5:30 PM
Ryan Wright, Operations & Info Management  rwright@isenberg.umass.edu
Students will learn to use internet-based services, web platforms, and open source software to support business processes, exchange information, and collaborate. This includes basic business strategy to support by content management systems, collaboration tools. In sum, students will learn basic digital strategy from concept to prototype. This includes utilizing the Business Model Canvas for planning, basic issues with design and how to market the business.

The class will be a hybrid offering with: 1) seminar style meetings that will focus on seminal online business management readings, and 2) lab style meetings that will focus on hands on skills with contemporary content management systems.

Reading will include popular press articles from business publications, as listed below, and Osterwalder & Pigneur book titled, Business Model Generation. Pass/Fail only
Light Fantastic: Wonders of Biology
FFYS 197BIOCH Spire # 59531 Mondays 6:00 – 6:50 PM
Alice Cheung, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,acheung@biochem.umass.edu
The title of the course is adopted from an article in Scientific America, Dec. 2008 issue. We will start from the theme explored in this article of amazing images of living organisms and biomolecules seen through the light microscope. Students will be asked to research on selected images. For instance, an image of DNA in water in this article will start the discussion of the structure of DNA and its function. Another example is a "Rainbow Zebrafish" that shows how different fluorescent proteins are used to follow complex neural pathways. A third example is an image of pollen on the stigma of a plant, the first step that leads to fertilization, which is also the subject of research in our laboratory. We will expand from these images to discuss basic molecular and cell biology behind them. Pass/Fail only

Running for Japan: Cultural Pursuits and Identity
FFYS 197LLC3 Spire # 59536 Mondays 7:00 – 7:50 PM
Stephen Forrest, Languages, Lit & Culture sforrest@asianlan.umass.edu
With the Olympics coming to Tokyo in 2020 Japanese media are already discussing candidates to represent the country in the marathon, an event with perhaps surprisingly deep ties and resonance there. This seminar considers the place of distance running in modern Japan, but also in the country's longer cultural history, from medieval monastic rituals to early modern messenger services. We'll read popular novelist and marathon runner Murakami Haruki's collection of essays, What I talk About When I Talk About Running (2007; English translation 2008), and students will also learn to use library resources to explore media coverage of earlier Olympic episodes involving Japanese runners—an introduction to these sources will be integral to the class. Readings and discussions will be in English. No running experience necessary. Pass/Fail only

W.E.B. DuBois In Our Times & Beyond
FFYS 197AFA2 Spire # 59539 Tuesdays 1:00 – 1:50 PM
Amilcar Shabazz, Afro-American Studies sshabazz@chancellor.umass.edu
This seminar explores the past, present, and, especially, the future of the legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois. The focus of the course will be on his stature as an intellectual and what it means today in the current crises and challenges in education. We will use the open source online collection Credo to examine original writings by Du Bois and other intellectuals like Horace Mann Bond. Letter grading w/option of Pass/Fail

Lead Exposure and Crime Rates: Conspiracy Theory or Scientific Fact
FFYS MATH1 Spire# 59554 Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:20 PM
Brian Burrell, Mathematics burrell@math.umass.edu
This seminar will examine the question of whether environmental exposure to lead adds to the baseline crime rate, and whether the reduction in crime in U.S. cities during the last 20 years is due in any way to the elimination of lead additives in gasoline and restrictions on lead in house paint. The course will emphasize the scientific method of inquiry, delve into techniques of statistical inference, address the distinction between correlation and causation, and survey the larger question of the causes of crime. Students will participate in researching and presenting the historical and scientific underpinnings of the question, along with the latest research. There are no prerequisites, and the statistical material will be focus on how to prove causation. That is, this will not be more of a sociology course than a statistics course. Successful completion of the course will require participation in the presentation of our findings. Pass/Fail only
When People Get Together: the Good, the Bad and The Funny
FFYS 197SCH1 Spire # 59513 Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:20 PM
Rommel Salvador, Hospitality and Tourism Management, rsalvador@isenberg.umass.edu
Through games and experiential exercises, students in this seminar will be provided the opportunity to reexamine assumptions about interpersonal relations and human behavior in organizations. Topics will include social perception, group dynamics, managing conflict, and celebrating diversity. The application of concepts and topics covered to careers in the field of business, especially hospitality and tourism management, will be explored. Grading: Pass/Fail only

Cognitive and Linguistic Strategies to Learn a Second Language
FFYS 197LLC1 Spire # 59524 Tuesdays 4:00 – 4:50 PM
Luiz Amaral, Department Languages, Lit. and Cultures amaral@spanport.umass.edu
Do you have problems understanding grammar explanations in foreign language classes? Would you like to be fluent in a foreign language but feel that you need some extra help to get past the beginner level? If you want to streamline your language learning experience, and learn some linguistic and cognitive strategies that will allow you to acquire a second language more easily, this seminar can help you. We will explore some findings in second language acquisition research that can help you develop learning strategies that go way beyond outdated flashcards. We will also look at universal properties of human language to understand structural and lexical variations that make specific individual grammars different from one another. By the end of the semester you will know the grammatical terminology used in language classes, and you will have developed new strategies to improve your ability to communicate in a second language. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Technology Today: Present Yourself the Web 2.0 Way
FFYS 197SCH Spire # 59533 Wednesdays 10:10 – 11:00 AM
Gail Cruise, ISOM Business Communication Program gcruise@isenberg.umass.edu
This seminar will introduce students to the current technology issues and popular applications used today. Students will explore such issues as: the use of networking technologies, web 2.0 and communication, ethics and the internet, security and protection of information, communication privacy and monitoring, and big data and the use of QR (quick response) codes.
In each class, students will learn how to utilize technology applications, including Prezi, Storify, Pinterest, Infographics, Instagram, Tagxedo, tumblr, and current visualization methods for PowerPoint. Google, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, Sound Cloud, and the Internet will be visited to understand how technology is used to communicate. Also, students will learn how to generate QR codes to brand themselves and direct viewers to information about them. Finally, entertaining ways to visualize themselves through Vizify and Intel’s Museum of Me will be introduced. At the end of the seminar, students will gain knowledge of the complexity of information technology issues today and gain experience in applying these technologies to present themselves the Web 2.0 way! Letter grading w/option of P/F
Design for Climate Change
FFYS 197RP5  Spire # 59532  Wednesday 12:20 – 1:10 PM

Carey Clouse, Architecture and Design careyclouse@gmail.com
Climate change will have a profound impact on our future cities, influencing new forms of infrastructure, systems and buildings. From rising sea levels to the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, the environmental impacts of climate change have already begun to materialize. As people look for alternative ways to ensure stability and sustainability in the coming years, regenerative design appears to be a promising tool. This class will unpack the issues that confront cities on the front lines of climate change, from food security and water access to energy, transportation and material resources. We will look at a number of different case studies to understand the types of design strategies and opportunities that are already underway. Beginning with examples of post-disaster rebuilding, to Utopian Communities, permaculture models, and finally a Himalayan village in the process of moving itself, these precedents offer fresh and hopeful solutions for our floundering planet. Pass/Fail only

Bioethics
FFYS 197BIO2  Spire # 59520  Wednesdays 12:20 – 1:10 PM

Eric Bittman, Biology elb@bio.umass.edu
Recent advances in molecular biology, neuroscience and developmental biology, to name just three areas of biology, call for reconsideration of current social views and legal practices. When does life begin? When does it end? When is ethical to manipulate our genetic material? Which of us is responsible for his actions, and how should those who show aberrant behaviors (or even beliefs) be treated? Students will read introductory articles considering these issues, discuss and consider relevant data, and prepare a presentation and term paper on a subject of interest to them that is relevant to topics covered in the course. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Girls’ and Women’s Education in Developing Countries
FFYS 197EDUC7  Spire # 59540  Wednesdays 3:35 – 4:25 PM

Cristine Smith, Educ Policy, Research, Admin cristine@educ.umass.edu
Even with recent progress in helping girls in developing countries to enroll in school, there is still a gender gap in primary and secondary school completion, disadvantaging girls. This contributes to a much higher rate of adult illiteracy among women than men. Considering the powerful and positive outcomes of education for individuals, families, communities and societies, supporting girls and women’s education is a critical issue in international development. This course will help students understand the gender gap in education; the socio-cultural, economic, political and geographical challenges to girls’ education; and the international and local projects and initiatives to support girls and women to acquire a basic education and beyond. With multiple examples (many from the instructor’s own experience in South Asia) of education programs for girls and women, the goal of this seminar is to help students understand the nature and importance of education for all. Letter grading w/option of P/F
Fashion, Media, Culture, Style
FFYS 197COMM1 Spire # 59523 Wednesdays 3:35 – 4:25 PM
Anne Ciecko, Communication ciecko@comm.umass.edu, umasscinephile@hotmail.com
This seminar looks at the use of clothing for communicative expression and cultural meaning, and the way it has been represented in the media. Our interdisciplinary approach is informed mainly by cultural studies and film/media studies but also draws in other discourses and fields such as journalism, cultural anthropology, visual rhetoric/semiotics, gender and sexuality studies, performance theory, and design practices. Our main examples include cinema, television, street-style and personal style blogs, fashion journalism, and advertisements. Short readings, classroom discussion, short writing exercises (cultural critiques), in-class interactive hands-on activities/presentations/projects, and at least one field trip, will be incorporated. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Fast Fiction
FFYS 197ENWR Spire # 59556 Wednesdays 4:40 – 5:30 PM
Jung Yun, Center for Teaching & Faculty Development jungy@acad.umass.edu
This is an introductory 1-credit course for students with an interest in developing their abilities as fiction writers. Each week, students will read and discuss short stories that highlight a particular element of craft, such as character, setting, dialogue, and voice. Students will then have an opportunity to develop their writing skills in relation to the weekly topic through in-class writing exercises, discussion, and peer review of written work. Fast Fiction is for students with little to no experience as fiction writers who wish to explore the fundamentals of craft, write pieces that can later be developed into short stories or longer works, and engage in constructive conversation about writing with their peers. The semester will conclude with student readings/presentations. Pass/Fail only

GMO and Public Health
FFYS 197PUBH4 Spire # 59560 Wednesdays 4:40 – 5:30 PM
Alexander Suvorov, Public Health asuvorov@schoolph.umass.edu
The wide spreading of genetically modified organisms tangled together scientific knowledge, corporate financial interests, public health problems, public opinions and governmental policies. The debates around GMO are so heated that finding unbiased information is a challenge. The goal of this course is to boost students’ critical thinking in a search of unbiased evidence. In this course GMO will be a focal point to analyze broad spectrum of topics from transgenesis technology to perception of innovation by human beings. The course will be highly interactive and will include class discussions, journal club, and preparation of reports and presentations on individual topics. Letter grading w/option of P/F
Clinical Psychology: An Introduction
FFYS 197PSY8  Spire # 59541  Thursdays 2:30 – 3:20 PM
Bonnie Strickland, Psychology  bonnie@psych.umass.edu
Clinical Psychology has become a very popular professional opportunity for those interested in providing psychological services. Based on psychological science, the field offers a multitude of vocational possibilities ranging from laboratory experiments to the provision of psychological assessment and psychotherapy for child, couples, families and adult individuals. This course offers a broad and general introduction to clinical psychology. We will cover history, research methods, assessment (interviewing, objective and projective tests), psychotherapeutic interventions (psychodynamic, humanistic-experiential, and cognitive-behavioral techniques) and specialty areas within clinical psychology. Pass/Fail only

The Many Faces of Language in Western New England
FFYS 197LLC2  Spire # 59530  Thursdays 4:00 – 4:50 PM
Meghan Armstrong, Spanish & Portuguese  armstrong.336@spanport.umass.edu
This course will provide students with an overview of some commonly spoken languages in Western New England (WNE) (especially in Hartford, Springfield and Holyoke) namely African American English, Jamaican Creole English, Haitian Creole, Puerto Rican Spanish/English, Portuguese and Vietnamese. We will pay special attention to language stigma and the idea of a "standard English". While there is very little academic work on any of these language varieties as spoken in WNE, students will discuss their personal experiences with these languages and invited speakers will share their experiences as well. A great deal of attention will be paid to the language attitudes that New Englanders from all different backgrounds have with respect to these language varieties and the implications of these language attitudes in society. Students will be exposed to possible areas of research for all topics discussed, especially in light of the paucity of research on language variation in WNE. Pass/Fail only

An Exploration of Medicinal Plants
FFYS 197PSIS  Spire # 59515  Fridays 12:20 – 1:10 PM
Lyle Craker, Stockbridge School  craker@umass.edu
In this class, we will explore the use of plant materials in conventional and alternative medicine systems to gain an understanding of the importance of these plant materials in human health. Letter grading w/option of P/F

Methods and Applications of Electronic Structure Theory
FFYS 197CHEM4  Spire # 59535  Fridays 3:35 – 4:25
Justin Fermann, Chemistry  fermann@chem.umass.edu
Theory and use of electronic structure calculations for performing research. This FFYS is a research skills colloquium, where students design and execute an original research project using original primary data they generate. The focus will be on posing good scientific questions, designing experiments to test hypotheses, analyzing results with scientific rigor, and communicating insight in relevant and meaningful ways. In a series of weekly meetings, students will alternately study the theory of electronic structure calculations and execute independent research projects using existing research tools to answer chemically relevant questions. Letter grading w/option of P/F